Oxfordshire Guardian

Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon

Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford

Thursday, April 26 - Wednesday, May 2, 2018 oxfordshireguardian.co.uk Free

Poor attendance at meetings for town plans

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Wood recycling business up for social award

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Runners elated, but many vow 'never again'

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Mother detained indefinitely for stabbing her son to death

By George Welch

A MUM who 'tragically' stabbed her five-year-old son to death after suffering years of delusions will be detained in a psychiatric unit indefinitely, a judge has ordered.

Police officers discovered Emma Jackson covered in blood and the body of her son, Tyler Warmington, at her home in Bromsgrove, Faringdon, on March 14 last year.

The 41-year-old, who was found with self-inflicted injuries on her wrists, said her son was 'sleeping' upstairs.

Officers found Tyler's body in an upstairs bedroom with a kitchen knife and 13 stab wounds. A post-mortem examination revealed shortly afterwards that Tyler died from stab wounds to the chest.

Jackson, who said she had no recollection of what had happened, denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Concerns over Tyler's wellbeing were raised by his school when he did not turn up for two days.

Sentencing at Oxford Crown Court on Friday, Judge Ian Pringle QC said Jackson's life sentence 'is living with the knowledge that she killed her own son', before issuing her an indefinite hospital order under the Mental Health Act.

Dr Julia Cartwright, who has been treating Jackson since last year, told the court she believed she was a paranoid schizophrenic.

Jackson admitted keeping a knife in her bedroom due to her fear someone would take Tyler away.

The court also heard how she suffered from 'delusional moods' and 'persecutory moods'.

Jackson was sectioned under the Mental Health Act and transferred to the Littlemore Mental Health Centre for ongoing treatment.

Her history of mental health issues dates back to her mid-twenties. In 2015 Tyler was taken into foster care for a short time. An independent case review has been started.

Superintendent Rory Freeman, LPA Commander for South and Vale of White Horse, said the circumstances around Tyler's death were 'tragic'.

He added: "This case has had a very significant effect on the community of Faringdon.

"There are few words that can describe the sadness that we have all felt over this case and our thoughts are with Tyler's family."

Claire Beards, Senior Crown Prosecutor for Thames and Chiltern Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said: "This case represents a tragedy for Tyler's family, who have been devastated by his death. Our thoughts are very much with them all at this time."

Hands up for carnival of family fun

BRIGHTLY coloured members of the Ray Collins Charitable Trust gathered in historic Wantage market place for an all singing and dancing celebration.

Ray Collins and members of his charity were joined by colour coordinated students from the Oxfordshire Rock Choir and American Dance School to launch the "biggest family fun day of the year".

Martin Holloway from the popular Oxford ska and reggae band The Inflatables also took part in the special celebrations.

The Wantage Carnival 2018 will wow audiences this summer from 11am to 7pm in the market place on Sunday June 10.

There will be market food stalls, raffles and live music with headliners The Inflatables performing from 5pm to 7pm.

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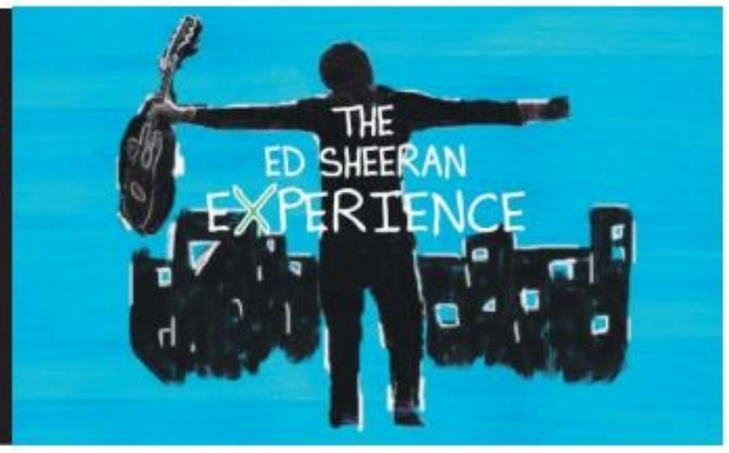

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RAF nurse struck off for posing as teenager

By George Welch

A MILITARY nurse who used computers at RAF Benson to pose as a teenage girl and access indecent images has been struck off.

Squadron Leader Kevin Scrafton was banned last week by the industry regulator after possessing indecent photographs of children at the south Oxfordshire base, near Wallingford.

He was convicted last November of offences involving the making and possession of child pornography and has been jailed for 18 months.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has now ruled his fitness to practice was impaired and that he had brought the profession into disrepute.

At a hearing on Wednesday, the council heard Scrafton accessed websites to share the images at RAF Benson in 2015 and 2016.

He was arrested in November 2016 and admitted to police that he pretended to be a young girl online to engage in conversations.

He also used pictures of real people from photo sharing websites to create fake social media accounts using fictional aliases. A police search found a memory stick owned by Scrafton with indecent images of children.

The panel described the offences as 'extremely serious'.

Although Scrafton admitted having the images, he denied being sexually attracted to the victims and denied having the images for his own sexual gratification.

The report read: "Scrafton has put members of the public at an unwarranted risk of harm, breached fundamental tenets of the nursing profession, and brought the nursing profession into disrepute.

"The panel considered that the public would be appalled if [this] panel did not make a finding of current impairment based on convictions of this nature and gravity."

The NMC said that, since Scrafton's conviction, it has received no further evidence of insight into his behaviour, or of any remediation into his 'failings'.

This, the regulator said, suggested a "harmful deep-seated personality or attitudinal problem".

Scrafton was convicted of two counts of making indecent photographs and 15 of possession.

He was handed an 18-month jail sentence and made subject to a 10-year sexual harm prevention order. He also has to sign the sex offenders' register for 10 years.

InBrief

Solicitor sentencing

A DIDCOT woman charged with neglecting her mother, who was found dead 'head to toe in faeces', will be sentenced tomorrow (Friday).

Solicitor Emma-Jane Kurtz was convicted of wilful neglect at Oxford Crown Court last month.

Her mum, Cecily, was found emaciated and slumped in their Blackwater Way living room in July 2014.

The incontinent 79-year-old, who had depression and obsessive compulsive disorder, was found wearing the same clothes as a decade ago.

Firearm charge

A MAN has been charged with possessing a prohibited firearm.

George Baker, 18, of Hilliat Fields, Drayton, was charged on Tuesday last week after a property was searched and a stun gun was found.

Baker was remanded in custody at Banbury Magistrates' Court and will appear at Oxford Crown Court on May 18.

Driverless cars driven on county roads for the first time

Driving force: The Oxbotica car

DRIVERLESS cars took to Oxfordshire's roads for the first time last week.

Oxbotica-led DRIVEN driverless vehicles that 'talk' to each other to navigate more efficiently were demonstrated publicly for the first time in Oxfordshire.

An autonomous Ford Fusion Titanium and Ford Mondeo successfully traversed the roads around Culham Science Centre demonstrating the futuristic technology on board.

Light and detection ranging sensors, on board computers and cameras, as well as Oxford-based Oxbotica's Selenium autonomy and Caesium fleet tracking software means the cars avoid pedestrians and cyclists.

DRIVEN project director and Oxbotica CEO Dr Graeme Smith said: "This is a significant landmark in the development of vehicle autonomy, which has always been about more than simply self-driving.

"This public trial demonstrates our technology is able to share data and information that vehicles are then able to use to plot more effective routes, avoid potential hazards and anticipate conditions more effectively."

DRIVEN co-founder Professor Paul Newman said the project "could revolutionise people's lives" and be worth "billions in the years ahead".

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THIS adorable black labrador is recovering after life-saving surgery to remove a football-sized tumour.

Six-year-old Lucy was brought into pet charity Blue Cross' rehoming centre in Burford, by friends of her owner who died weeks before.

Staff were shocked to find the 2kg tumour and worked quickly to get Lucy into surgery to remove the cancerous mass.

The tumour, which weighed more than two bags of sugar, took vets two hours to remove and luckily was found not to have spread.

Lucy was also neutered to prevent future uterine disease and reduce the risk of further hormone-related mammary tumours.

The unfortunate pup is back on her feet after the £1,000 surgery and is now recovering in a foster home.

Laura Cross, small animals manager at Blue Cross rehoming centre, said: "We're over the moon to see a happy ending for Lucy.

"She was brought into us for rehoming after her owner died and it seemed she had just got used to the massive lump hanging down from her abdomen."

A quarter of unsprayed female dogs develop mammary tumours.

Staff will now find a forever home for Lucy.

Donations towards Lucy's surgery can be made via JustGiving at https://bit.ly/2qTylFe

Honour to lead Vale: council boss quits for police role

THE leader of Vale of White Horse District Council will stand down next month after landing a permanent role as deputy police and crime commissioner for the Thames Valley.

Matthew Barber, leader for the last seven years, will formally relinquish his leadership duties at the authority's annual meeting on May 16.

As part of the move, his salary will increase from £45,000 to £65,000 a year.

He will continue his role as a councillor for the Steventon and Hanneys ward.

Mr Barber said it had been an 'honour' and a 'pleasure' to lead the Vale, adding that it was a 'difficult' decision to resign.

The Conservative said he was 'proud' of his achievements in the leadership post and pointed to the Local Plan, introducing two-hour free parking and managing to expand services with diminishing budgets as his achievements.

Mr Barber's successor will be selected by his party and then formally voted in at the meeting on May 16.

Meanwhile, Jane Murphy has been formally appointed as the new leader of South Oxfordshire District Council following John Cotton's resignation.

Cllr Murphy, *pictured*, who represents Cholsey ward for the Conservatives, was deputy leader of the council and its member for finance until last month.

She said she felt 'privileged' to land the job.

Changing faces: SODC's John Cotton, left, resigned while Vale's Matthew Barber, right, is leaving next month – the pair had been key figures in plans for a single unitary authority for Oxfordshire with county leader Ian Hudspeth

Get involved in the community

By Owen Hughes

LOW turnout for Abingdon's community meetings has been branded "disappointing".

A public meeting on town retail, town centre development and parking last week followed on from a previous one about housing, planning and flooding and the first on transport.

The meetings are a result of last autumn's community survey feeding into the town council's community-led plan but one councillor has said that despite people grumbling about the town few actually turned out to make their feelings known.

Town councillor Angela Lawrence said: "There were a lot of suggestions but no real answers. The turnout has been disappointing.

"So many people grumble about the town and then here's the opportunity to come and give their own ideas but there weren't many of them really.

"The community-led plan could be an important document; if it's good then it will fit into the local plan.

"When any planning permission comes up then it will be advisory to that. It should be of interest to more people than it seems to be.

"It's the community-led plan, that's what it says on the tin, and it's not really being that. The leading politicians will just say 'the community have had their chance' and the council will take it over, and that's not how it should be."

Businesses and retailers who voiced their opinion at the meeting on Monday last week expressed dissatisfaction with the number of empty shops and inconsiderate parking in town.

Allegations were made that funds put into the Abingdon Business Improvement District (BID) project had simply disappeared.

Cllr Lawrence added: "There seems to be some mystery about what's happened to it. Lots of businesses have put in so much money each but nothing much seems to have happened."

She admitted that despite being a "lovely place to visit", Abingdon struggles to compete with Didcot, Witney and Oxford from a shopping perspective.

"A better variety of shops would mean more people would come in," she said.

Cllr Lawrence suggested reviving a previous idea to get shops to stay open until 6pm to attract shoppers outside of rush hour by opening at 10am.

InBrief

Knifepoint attack

POLICE are on the hunt for two would-be robbers after a man was threatened at knifepoint during a 'frightening' attack in a Grove alleyway.

At around 9pm on Monday last week a 23-year old man was walking along an alleyway between Cane Lane and Saville Way.

Police said he was approached and stopped by two men who demanded to know what was in his bag.

When he showed the contents one of the offenders pulled out a knife which he swung at the victim before kicking him in the head.

The victim managed to flee to the Co-Op in Saville Way and the would-be robbers left with nothing.

Police have described the knife-wielding offender as white, in his early to mid-twenties with a goatee beard. The other is also white and looked younger.

Call police on 101 with information.

Vehicle theft spree

MONEY, sunglasses and cigarettes were stolen as part of a vehicle theft spree in Wallingford last week.

Police are appealing for witnesses following the spate of break-ins overnight last Tuesday into Wednesday.

Officers said there were eight burglaries, five of which took place in Fir Tree Avenue to the west of the town where the cash, sunglasses and cigarettes were stolen.

Nothing was taken from those broken into in Chiltern Crescent, Hambledon Drive and an unspecified road.

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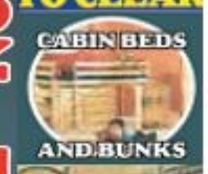

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2019 opening date for Lidl

WALLINGFORD shoppers hungry for Lidl will have to wait until next year before they can shop at the town's newest supermarket.

Planning permission for the new 2,100sq m value store at Hithercroft Road was approved last week.

Officials from the German supermarket told the Guardian construction is expected to start within the next couple of months, with a view to opening the store early next year.

Jeremy Lee, Lidl regional head of property, said: "We could not be more delighted to have received planning permission, and look forward to getting started on construction.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the local community for their continued support, and very much look forward to opening our doors and offering our fresh, quality, great value products in the not too distant future."

Lidl, which would bring 40 full- and part-time jobs to the area, originally hoped to get planning permission before the end of last year.

More than 600 people signed a petition backing the store as plans received huge support from the community.

Visit tinyurl.com/y7qapx9m for more information on the plans for the new Lidl.

Highly anticipated: Image of how the new Lidl in Wallingford may look

InBrief

Motorbikes stolen

THREE motorbikes were stolen from the Abingdon area between April 15 and 19.

One bike was stolen from Hadland Road between 3pm on April 15 and 5am on April 16.

Another bike in Cemetery Road was taken between 7.30pm and 7.30am on the same days.

A third bike was found damaged after it was stolen from Franklin Close between 10.30pm on Wednesday last week and 12.30am the next day.

Contact police on 101 if you have any information.

Barracks expansion

DIDCOT'S army barracks could be expanded after a planning application to add a storey to one of its buildings was submitted.

Registered last week, the application is for a new flat roof to be added to the Ammunition Store, building six at the Vauxhall Barracks.

According to documents, the expansion will provide 'much needed additional space'.

South Oxfordshire District Council has issued a target decision date of June 11.

Visit tinyurl.com/y8qyf944 for more details on the planned expansion.

Out & About
Ideas for your leisure time

Revamp for nursery fined £60k

By George Welch

A CHILDREN'S nursery fined £60,000 after a dead mouse was found in its kitchen has finished a £19,000 refurbishment and is 'confident' it now meets expected standards.

Positive Steps Children's Day Nursery, in Shellingford, near Faringdon, pleaded guilty to five food safety offences after an unannounced inspection in May last year.

The nursery accepted the expected standards were not met after inspectors discovered rodent faeces throughout the kitchen, including on top of work surfaces by chopping boards, by food and by a baby bottle steriliser.

Divisional director Vikki Skinner insists improvements have been made and that the kitchen refurbishment is of a high standard.

She said: "We always take such matters seriously on the rare occasions they arise and pride ourselves on the cleanliness of our kitchens and the quality of the food we provide.

"We took immediate steps to tackle the issue following the inspection including an external cleaning contractor being brought in to help us and significant investment in the kitchen. Staff at the nursery understood the impact of the situation and worked hard to get the kitchen up and running again very quickly.

"We took the opportunity to completely refurbish the kitchen to a commercial specification and are confident that our nursery kitchen now meets the high standards parents and children expect of us."

Inspectors highlighted the condition of the kitchen and waste bin areas outside as affected and the nursery remained open. Following a deep clean of the kitchen and a further inspection, the kitchen was back in use three days later.

The nursery owners pleaded guilty to the charges at Oxford Magistrates' Court on April 10.

It was fined £60,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,851.05 and a victim surcharge of £170, making it the Vale of White Horse District Council's largest fine for a prosecution of this type.

Perfect match: Jordanne Whiley with her French Open doubles trophy and partner Marc McCarroll with baby Jackson in their new home in Steventon

Home fit for a Wimbledon champion

SIX months pregnant with their first child, two wheelchair tennis champions were looking to move into an ace family home.

Jordanne Whiley and her partner Marc McCarroll moved into their 'perfect forever home' in Abbotts Meadow, Steventon a couple of months before their son Jackson arrived at the start of the year.

The pair moved into the specifically adapted Barnett Road home from West London.

The David Wilson property has been specially modified with a stairlift and a ramped side door for wheelchair access to meet their day-to-day needs.

Whiley, 25, is a 10-time Grand Slam champion and current Wimbledon doubles holder and two-time Paralympic bronze medallist, while McCarroll, 32, is a retired Paralympian, British Open and Great Britain World Team Cup winner.

Whiley said the London home was unsuitable for children and that the pair have fallen in love with the south Oxfordshire area.

She said: "This is going to be our forever home and Abbotts Meadow is lovely.

"Everyone at the development is so nice. I think we will become good friends over time.

"It really feels like home and we are very happy here."

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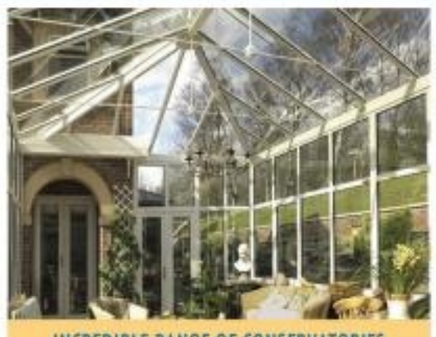

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News

Pictures: *Lawrie Photography*

Superheroes day out

THERE aren't many moments in life where you will see Spider-Man, Princess Leia and Queen Daenerys Targaryen in the same room together.

But more than 1,000 fantasy fans got a glimpse of their favourite comic book and film characters at the third Oxford Comic Con on Saturday.

Notable guests at the event included motion capture performer Arti Shah, who was a droid puppeteer in the latest Star Wars blockbusters, Toby Philpott and John Coppinger who brought Jabba the Hutt to life, and Judge Dredd artist John Higgins.

More than 90 exhibitors took up stalls at the event showcasing everything from comics and cosplay, to arts cinemas and retro gaming.

Event organiser Leo Davidson said: "The event surpassed our previous ones in almost every way and we can't wait for the next one. It is our privilege and joy to be able to organise such a wonderful event in Oxford.

"We are so grateful to everyone who came."

Wizardly: Newt Salamander

Brave: Merida

Warning after driver cut free from car

AN elderly woman had to be cut free by fire fighters after a two-car smash near Faringdon.

Police, fire and ambulance crews all attended the A4095 Radcot collision shortly after 8am on Friday.

The occupants of one car managed to climb out of their vehicle but fire fighters had to use specialist equipment to free the driver of the second car when they arrived.

The woman was taken to hospital but no one was seriously injured.

Fire crews from Witney and paramedics from South Central Ambulance Service attended.

Incident commander, station manager Paul Webster said: "This was a considerable impact to both vehicles. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all road users to wear their seatbelts and to take extra care whilst driving on rural roads.

"Also just after sunrise and before sunset the sun can shine directly into drivers' eyes, leaving many motorists driving with a glare.

"This glare can make it much harder to see the road ahead and potential hazards creating an added risk to drivers.

"When sun glare is an issue slow down and use extra caution"

Collision: Drivers are advised to be aware of the sun's glare

Heroes and villains: Stormtroopers were out in force at Oxford Comic Con, joined by Batman with a young Batgirl and Spiderman with a playful Deadpool beside him

Community credited for children's services work

MORE than £40,000 has been handed out to groups across Oxfordshire to boost children's services in the wake of closures.

Start-up funding has been awarded to four more groups providing children's services in Oxfordshire in the latest round of funding, taking the total number to 39.

Those to receive extra funding are Benson Little Acorns (£22,000), Didcot APUK (£6,100), St Edburgs Church with Kingsmere (Bicester, £11,200) and the Comfort Trust (East Oxford, £2,729).

Lucy Butler, Oxfordshire County Council's director for children's services, said: "Much has been said about the 'closure' of children's centres in Oxfordshire, but through the amazing efforts of community groups many of these buildings are very much open and running services for 0-5 year olds.

"This time last year I don't think many people thought that would happen - but it has, and it's something for which local people deserve enormous credit."

OCC announced its intentions to close 44 children's centres and early intervention hubs in 2016 to cut £8million from its budget, forming part of nearly £300m wider savings needed by 2020.

Over the last year, community groups from across the county have been applying for a slice of the £1m 'transition' pot to help them become self-sustainable.

The groups to benefit are:

■ Benson Little Acorns will receive £22,000 over two years to create a children's centre in the community for parents and children ages 0-5. The toddler group, run by parents and volunteers, wants to extend its activities.

■ Didcot APUK will receive £6,100 over two years to continue Didcot Baby Monday (DBM), a weekly parent and baby group offering a safe open space for parents and their new baby.

■ St Edburgs Church with Kingsmere (Bicester) will receive £11,200 over two years to fund family support work in Bicester, including stay and play, focusing on the Kingsmere Estate.

■ The Comfort Trust, East Oxford will receive £2,729 over one year to support its existing work in East Oxford running four baby and toddler groups.

InBrief

Sports hall plan

SPORTS clubs are invited to a presentation evening next month to find out more about the benefits of a new sports hall in south Oxfordshire.

Building work is well under way on the King Alfred's Academy PE and Sports facility which will be completed and available to hire from October.

The Wantage secondary school will host an information evening at its West Site at 7pm on Thursday, May 17.

Jailed for cocaine

A MAN has been jailed after police found £1,600 worth of cocaine at a house in Thame.

Mark Winfield, 34, of Berkeley Road, pleaded guilty to possession with the intent to supply class A drugs and was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison.

Mobile phones, cash and the cocaine were found during a raid at a Berkeley Road home in May last year.

He was charged in October and pleaded guilty at Oxford Crown Court on April 9.

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News

Wood recycling firm in running for social responsibility award

By Owen Hughes

Cutting edge: The Oxford Wood Recycling team are up for an award recognising their social impact

AN Abingdon-based wood recycling centre has made the cut in a business awards honouring social enterprises.

Oxford Wood Recycling, based on Suffolk Way, Abingdon, is one of four finalists in the Bluestream Recruitment Award for Social Responsibility at the new 2018 Vale 4 Business Awards.

The finalists were revealed last month at Abingdon's Crown & Thistle after all four organisations displayed "outstanding commitment to fulfilling a social mission".

The businesses were assessed for their impact on local groups / area, commitment of staff, and use of corporate social responsibility to address challenges.

Oxford Wood Recycling's social mission is to employ people at a disadvantage in finding work.

The not-for-profit organisation, formed in 2005, currently employs 20 people.

The company also has a strong environmental mission to encourage wood reuse with 250 to 300 tonnes passing through the shop's doors every year.

CEO Richard Snow said: "While we work very hard to run a successful business that employs people, we're very much working to our social and environmental missions.

"We work in the recycling sector, but we reuse a significant amount of wood each year; this is wood that people have effectively thrown away, but we bring it back onto the market for use for DIY.

"If you put wood in a skip it never gets re-used. It might get recycled but it won't get re-used."

Richard added that winning the award would be a proud moment for his team of employees and volunteers who "deserve recognition for the work they put in year in and year out".

He added: "We hope to win, but there's some strong contenders in our category.

"It shows that social enterprise is quite strong in the county and district which is nice for us because we're a proud social enterprise.

"We've never been recognised locally for an award, so it would be really good to get it.

"It will hopefully let our friends and customers know that we're moving in the right direction."

The Vale 4 Business Awards ceremony will take place at the Williams F1 Conference Centre in Grove on May 18.

Other companies competing for the award are BETTER – White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre; food education social enterprise Maymessy CIC and craft brewery Tap Social which provides courses for offenders.

Online tool to help patients

AN online tool that allows people with a form of inflammatory bowel disease to manage their condition and reduce hospital visits is being rolled out to more patients in Oxford.

The True Colours platform for people with ulcerative colitis is now available to almost 400 patients in the city following a successful six-month trial at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington.

Ulcerative colitis affects the large intestine and colon and can cause irritation and diarrhoea.

Typically, people are diagnosed with the condition in their early twenties.

The True Colours system means patients receive a daily e-mail to complete quick questionnaires about symptoms and quality of life.

Based on their answers, the patient is given a score and advised about any steps to take.

Dr Alissa Walsh, a clinical research fellow in gastroenterology who carried out the trial, said 'empowered' patients have welcomed the clarity over when to contact clinicians.

She said: "We know that if people act on their symptoms and call earlier, they do better.

"It decreases the amount of time 'in flare' that they have and can decrease hospitalisation."

The new tool was developed by the National Institute of Health Research Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.

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Andy's date at Buckingham Palace

By George Welch

JUST weeks after one Didcot resident received her invite to the royal wedding, another has been honoured with a royal date.

Prolific fundraiser Andy Baker will rub shoulders with the Queen after being invited to a glitzy garden party at Buckingham Palace this summer.

Andy, who founded Didcot-based fundraising group Play2Give in 2007, will meet royals, including the Queen , at the palace on June 5 – his birthday – in what he described as a 'dream come true'.

P2G, our charity of the year for 2017, raises cash for its two main benefactors, the Oxford Children's Hospital and brain injury charity Headway Oxfordshire.

Andy, 29, said: "I never in a million years thought I would get this or see the day I would get to go to Buckingham Palace so it's definitely a dream come true.

'Dream come true': Andy Baker collecting his BCA in July last year and inset, the invitation to the royal garden party on his birthday

"I can't stop smiling. When my mum gave me this envelope we both ended up crying in tears of happiness.

"This means so much and for me I consider it to be a real achievement to get invited to such a special occasion as this as I've overcome and fought so much in my life to achieve against many odds medically."

Andy is £9,000 away from raising a milestone £100,000 for good causes in his 16 years of fundraising.

Visit play2give.org.uk for more information and to donate.

Courtney Hughes, aka Secret Santa, will attend the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on May 19 at Windsor Castle after the invitation landed on her doormat earlier this month.

Heat from sun's rays sparks fire at cottage

IT was so hot last week that a fire was started in a listed building by the sun's rays magnified through a window.

A thatched cottage in Childrey, near Wantage, nearly went up in flames when the sun's rays were magnified through a convex glass window in a front door.

This in turn led to burning of a wicker bag in the front porch of the Grade II-listed house so it started smouldering.

The home owner was outside when she heard smoke alarms and returned inside to find smoke in her High Street home shortly after 6pm last Wednesday.

She ran inside to discover smoke filling the ground floor and called 999.

The woman extinguished the fire before crews from Wantage, Didcot and Faringdon arrived.

A fire service spokesperson said: "When we have sunny weather like this week the right conditions can be found for glass objects to enhance the sun's rays and cause a fire when in contact with combustible items.

"Luckily the occupier was alerted by working smoke alarms in the home."

InBrief

Jewellery stolen

THIEVES used a spade to smash their way into a home in Cutteslowe.

Raiders shattered the glass of a patio door to get into the home in Carlton Road between 10am and 3pm on Tuesday last week.

They removed a padlock to get through the side gate and then used a spade to smash the back door.

They ransacked the home and took a number of expensive items of jewellery and clothing.

Call police on 101 with information.

Curry giveaway

OXFORD'S Wagamama is giving 100 free curries away to celebrate the launch of a new dish.

The Japanese restaurant has introduced a 'vegatsu' at its Market Street site, the first outside London to serve the vegan meal.

The chain will give away 50 curries at 3pm on April 30 and May 7 on a first come, first served basis.

Charity name ideas

OXFORDSHIRE Association for the Blind wants to change its name because it believes it is misleading and is asking people for ideas.

After conducting its own research, the group said its name was 'off-putting' for people with some vision and 'shocking' for those in the early stages of sight loss.

Contact admin@oxeyes.org.uk or 01865 725595.

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News

Sea change in plastic recycling method

Diamond scientists help with enzyme to break down PET

By George Welch

BOFFINS at Harwell-based Diamond Light Source have helped engineer a potentially revolutionary method of recycling plastics.

Scientists have improved a naturally occurring enzyme which can digest some of our most commonly polluting plastics.

PET, the strong plastic commonly used in bottles, takes hundreds of years to break down in the environment.

The modified enzyme, known as PETase, can start breaking down the same material in just a few days.

This is expected to transform the recycling process, allowing plastics to be re-used more effectively.

Experts at Portsmouth University led the research and worked closely with Diamond Light Source and the US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Scientists at the Diamond Light Source employed a synchrotron that uses intense beams of X-rays 10 billion times brighter than the sun to act as a microscope powerful enough to see individual atoms.

From this, a high definition 3D model of the enzyme was created.

Professor John McGeehan, from Portsmouth University, said access to the facility "allowed us to see the 3D atomic structure of PETase in incredible detail".

"Being able to see the inner workings of this biological catalyst provided us with the blueprints to engineer a faster and more efficient enzyme," he added.

Researchers made the breakthrough when examining a natural enzyme thought to have evolved in a recycling centre in Japan.

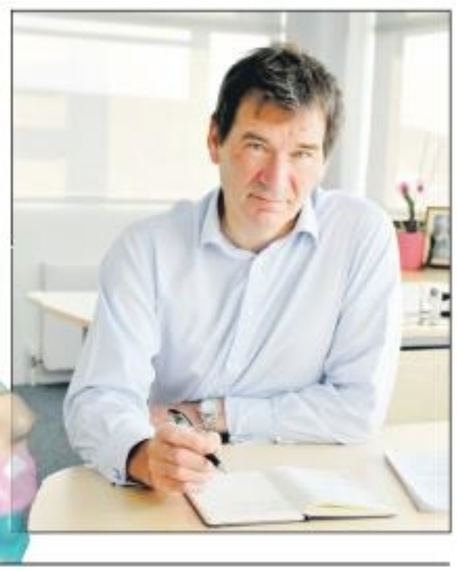
Professor Andrew Harrison, chief executive of the Diamond Light Source, said: "The detail that the team were able to draw out from the results achieved at Diamond will be invaluable in looking to tailor the enzyme for use in large-scale industrial recycling processes."

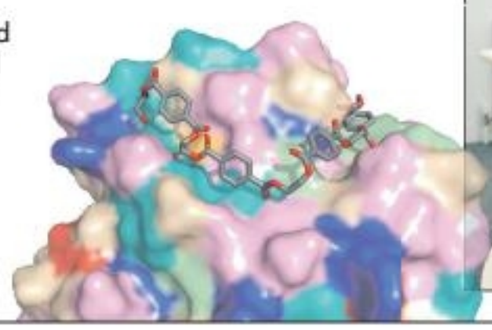
He added: "The impact of such an innovative solution to plastic waste would be global. It is fantastic that UK scientists and facilities are helping to lead the way."

UK consumers use around 13 billion plastic drinks bottles a year but more than three billion are not recycled.

However, the enzyme is a number of years away from being deployed on a widespread scale.

It will need to degrade PET faster than its current time of a few days before becoming economically viable.





Wave of plastic: The problem of the amount of plastic in the oceans has come to the forefront in recent years. **Credit:** *David Jones*

Pioneering work: a detector on 123 beamline at Diamond Light Source in Harwell; far left, Professor Andrew Harrison, chief executive at the project and left, the detailed model of PETase allowed researchers to see how the enzyme could be improved. **Credit:** *H Lee Woodcock*

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News

Steamy novels shade it as most donated items

A CHARITY has been 'inundated' with thousands of copies of the steamy novel Fifty Shades of Grey which has become the most frequently donated item to their shops.

Burford-based pet charity Blue Cross said the raunchy best seller was their most commonly given item of 2017 and more are still arriving in 2018 and flying off the shelves.

All of the 57 Blue Cross charity shops across the UK have received numerous sets of all copies, with some shops taking in one book or more every week.

Retail manager Ann Penfold said they often receive more donations in line with current trends – but not on this scale.

Sabine Kraus, assistant manager of the Summertown branch, said: "We've had lots of copies of these books, all three of the series at one time or another over the last year.

"Some of our customers say they prefer a good murder mystery but others have picked up a copy for a bargain."

The series was written in 2011 by UK author E. L. James and the Fifty Shades of Grey 2015 film grossed more than $1.3billion at box office.

The first book set a record in the UK as the fastest-selling paperback of all time.

Thousands share 'amazing

Real scorcher: Catherine Slatter was happy to get her medal

Cheers: Dr Emily Harrop was spurred on by the crowds

So glad to have done it:

By Owen Hughes

OXFORDSHIRE runners braved the scorching conditions on Sunday to compete in the London Marathon raising vital sums for charity.

Oxfam, the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust and VICTA all benefitted from the tireless endeavours of the county's runners.

Catherine Slatter, 51, from Cowley, took part in the marathon to raise funds for Oxfam, completing the race – her second – in five hours, 13 minutes and 19 seconds.

She said: "It was very tough, a real scorcher, so my time was very slow. I was just happy to survive it and get my medal. The crowd atmosphere was as incredible as ever – it's really an amazing experience."

Oxfam's director of fundraising, Nicola Tallett, said: "We are extremely grateful to Catherine and all those who continue to support and fundraise for us."

Donate to Catherine at https://bit.ly/2GWoFUm

Jessica Lever, 29, finished the marathon with 40 minutes to go until the eight hour limit. The former pupil at John Mason School in Abingdon raised funds for VICTA, a charity that supports blind and partially sighted people, in honour of friend Mel.

Jessica, from Culham, said: "The spectators were just amazing full stop, people lining the streets for most of the 26 miles. Running over Tower Bridge was truly amazing and something I'll never forget. Best of all I've raised nearly £5,000 for VICTA.

"I don't think I'll ever run a marathon again, but I'm so glad I've done it."

Donate to Jessica online at https://bit.ly/2qDhllL

Competing in the marathon for mental health charity Charlie Waller Memorial Trust was a family affair for some Oxfordshire runners.

For Hugo Jacobs, 53, the London Marathon was a small step on his way to beating depression as he prepares for a 62-mile ultra marathon.

Hugo, from Wantage, completed the marathon in four hours and 12

experience', but never again

Jessica Lever and family **Huge passion:** Harry and Tom Willis with Sir Martin Waller **Rewarding:** Carl Bolton says the pain was worth it for the charity

minutes, while son Ned achieved an impressive time under three hours and 45 minutes. Hugo said: "Raising money for CWMT is a no brainer for me – I suffer depression and understand being in a black lonely abyss. CWMT do great things in this regard and I know they save lives."

Ned, 22, added that the "horrific illness" is "heartbreaking".

Donate to Hugo at https://bit.ly/2HlBzYd, or Ned via: https://bit.ly/2qRUlk1

Harry Wills, 26, from Oxford, finished the marathon one second behind brother Tom in five hours, one minute and 34 seconds.

The pair were also raising funds for the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust.

Harry said the charity has a "huge passion" for supporting young people with their mental wellbeing and "being a small charity, your donation will make a tangible difference".

Donate online at https://bit.ly/2HlxnaR

Coming in just before the brothers was Carl Bolton, from Witney, who completed the gruelling 26.2 mile run to support adoption charity Parents and Children Together (PACT).

He said: "I have to admit it's one of the most rewarding things ever, seeing and running with people who are raising money for brilliant charities much like PACT.

"Yes, it was painful but it's all worth it for the tireless work they do day-to-day for these children and families."

Carl completed the run in five hours, 23 minutes and 57 seconds.

To donate to PACT, visit https://bit.ly/2qG7lIe

Helen & Douglas House runner Dr Emily Harrop completed the marathon in five hours and 14 minutes raising almost £6,000, all while wearing odd socks, inspired by a child at the house who always wore odd socks.

Emily said: "Taking part in the London Marathon was one of the most amazing things I have ever done.

"The real highlights were all the fantastic crowds cheering us on, the Helen & Douglas House cheer team, and my family along the route."

Pupils 'growing as young people at happy school'

A 'VIBRANT' school in Wantage praised for how children appreciate differences continues to impress inspectors.

Stockham Primary School was rated as good following a visit from Ofsted on March 16.

Inspector Matthew Haynes said the school has improved since it was judged to be good in December 2013 and suggested it could be upgraded to outstanding at a future review.

He said: "This vibrant, happy school helps pupils not only to achieve highly but also to grow as young people in a wide range of ways.

"The school's motto, 'soaring high', captures the ambition which staff instil in pupils. Pupils develop a strong appreciation of people with a range of backgrounds and beliefs."

Mr Haynes also praised how pupils stay fit during the 'daily mile' initiative. He added: "While all pupils exercise during the day, teachers and leaders regularly go the extra mile, determined to help pupils succeed.

"The highly skilful, compassionate leadership has made sure the school goes from strength to strength."

Headteacher Ruth Burbank said she was 'so proud' of the school.

Under new Ofsted rules, a further inspection will have to be undertaken before the Stockham Way school can be considered as outstanding.

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New bakery pulls in the dough as 2,300 pasties sold in a week

By George Welch

LIFE in Bicester just got a little bit sweeter after an exciting new bakery opened in the town centre.

Cornwall-based Warrens Bakery is responsible for the mouth-watering smells tempting shoppers in Pioneer Square in recent weeks.

A staggering 2,379 pasties were gobbled up in the store's first week and, on its first day of trading, the store welcomed 499 customers through its doors.

The 55-seater Bicester store, one of more than 60 in England, has created eight jobs.

Franchisee Robert Crompton described the opening day as 'hectic'.

He added: "Local customers are key to our success and we have tried to provide everything they need to enhance their visit to us with daily papers, free WiFi, instore music, nappy changing / WC facilities and even a selection of toys and books for the little ones.

"We also have outside seating and local offers running too so we are welcoming all to come and see us at our new Bicester store, there is truly something for everyone."

The economic potential of Bicester has also been hailed by the directors of a recruitment agency which has moved its office to the 'growing' town.

Meeting customers' needs: Robert Crampton, at the back, with the team at Warrens Bakery in Pioneer Square

Thorne and Wait, which specialises in recruitment for the transport, logistics and manufacturing sector, has moved from Kidlington to Market Square, also in the town centre, to be closer to its client base in those industries.

Company directors Steve Thorne and Wesley Wait, who set up the agency two years ago, said they were 'excited' about Bicester's economic prospects.

Rapidly growing: Steve Thorne and Wesley Wait outside their new office in Market Square, Bicester

Mr Wait said: "Bicester is a rapidly growing town, which has recently approved the construction of 10,000 new homes and many more industrial units over the next 12 years.

"This will help to grow the potential pool of labour within this marketplace and the ability to supply a quality local workforce to local companies is one area we're very good at and keen to see grow."

Mr Thorne added: "Bicester is one of the most rapidly growing towns in Oxfordshire and we have noticed similar growth in the demand for labour."

InBrief

Teenagers word gap

UNCOMMUNICATIVE teenagers are nothing shocking, but latest research suggests a large number of them do not know enough words to do well at school.

According to academics, four out of 10 pupils in their first year of secondary school have such a limited vocabulary that it is negatively impacting their learning.

Based on a survey of more than 1,300 UK teachers, the Oxford University Press report reveals a 'significant word gap' which is adversely affecting children's learning.

Many of the teachers say the problem is worsening.

They blame the 'word gap' – or limited vocabulary – on too little reading for pleasure.

Studies suggest breadth of vocabulary is strongly influenced by the number of words a child comes into contact with on a daily basis, including reading books and speaking to family and friends.

Building communities

COMMUNITY groups across the county can apply for a share of a £250,000 prize fund available through Jewson's Building Better Communities scheme.

Good causes can apply for cash for materials to improve their facilities.

Jewson will award one project up to £50,000, as well as smaller prizes to other projects. Go to buildingbettercommunities.co.uk.

Have your company name on Stars shirts

A community-driven competition is offering businesses the chance to have their logo emblazoned on the Oxford City Stars' home shirt next season.

A £2,000 sponsorship deal with the city's ice hockey team, who missed out on promotion at the weekend, is up for grabs.

Companies and charities can enter the off-ice competition by donating £100 to the Stars' Just Giving campaign which aims to improve the club's community involvement in schools.

Each entrant will receive a season ticket for next season which covers the full value of the investment in the draw based on the early bird price of £100 for an adult.

The Stars, who need £15,000 to run a full community engagement programme next season, are looking for a minimum of 20 entries to cover the cost of the value of the sponsorship.

The winner will have their logo on the home shirt next season. If there are fewer than 20 entrants the prize will revert to the away shirt if there are 10 entries.

Stars director Greig Box Turnbull said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for local businesses to gain fantastic exposure and support the Stars and what we are building as a club."

Enter at tinyurl.com/ybqwexpn before the June 22 deadline.

Digging deep to build new college digs

A RETIRED college Master has been handed an engraved silver spade as ground was broken on 'significant' new student accommodation.

Fellows, staff, students, alumni and friends of Balliol College gathered to see Professor Sir Drummond Bone officially launch the construction of nine new buildings around the Master's Field cricket pitch in St Cross Road.

The project will deliver 223 new undergraduate and postgraduate rooms for the college as well as a sports pavilion and extensive new landscaping.

Sir Drummond retired as Master of Balliol at the end of last month after nearly seven years in the role.

He said: "This project will allow the college to accommodate all its undergraduate population at Balliol College for the duration of their time in Oxford and will make very significant improvement to the accommodation provision for postgraduates.

Spadework: Professor Sir Drummond Bone, Balliol College Master 2011–2018, and Anthony Nagle, BAM construction director **Picture:** *Steve Smyth*

"We are very excited to be starting this project and look forward to the completion of the first building."

The first building should be built by early next year.

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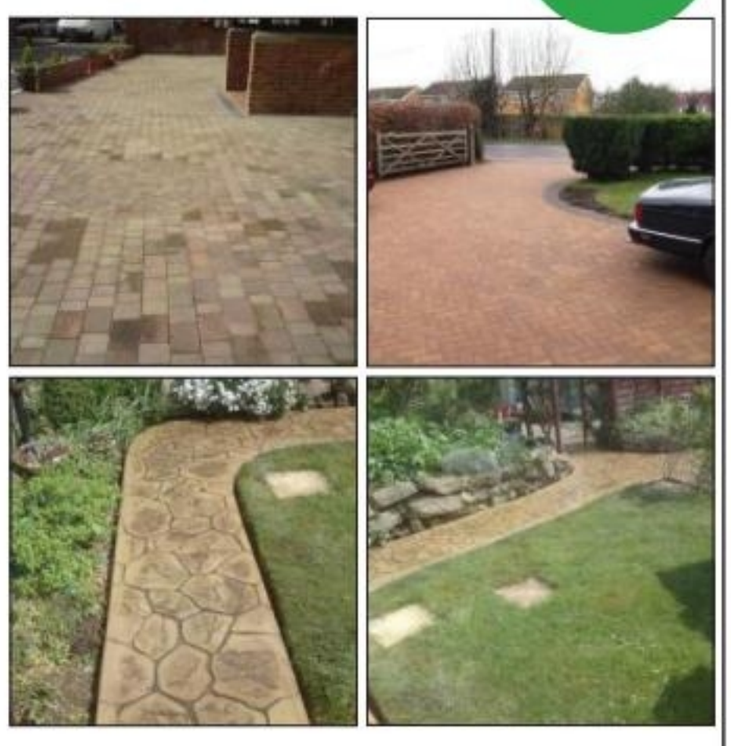

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InBrief

New business boost

SEVEN growing and start-up businesses have been awarded grant funding totalling £33,500 by a scheme aimed at boosting growth and jobs among Oxfordshire's small businesses.

As well as the grants, a series of free workshops and one-to-one support will be provided.

Businesses awarded funding are: Octopus Events, Didcot; Four Seasons Tree Care, Thame; Jamie Briggs Removals and Storage, Bicester; Aigenpulse, Milton Park; Seelocal, Banbury; Casadas Bolitas, Grove and Computational Engineering, Witney.

The grants are part of the Elevate programme run by OxLEP's Growth Hub and are part funded by the European Regional Development Fund. New businesses can get up to £3,000 with more established businesses able to secure up to £8,000.

Visit tinyurl.com/ydcjkyke for more information on the next round of funding.

Mobile train tickets

GREAT Western Railway has launched mobile ticketing.

After downloading the GWR app passengers can use smart phones or tablets to buy tickets and travel now barcode readers have been installed at station ticket gates.

Phone screens can be scanned at the gates and checked on board by train managers with mobile barcode reading devices.

Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Ill youngsters meet new friends as they show their creative side

By George Welch

A GROUP of artistic terminally ill children showed off their creative side when they had a go at graffiti art in the sun.

The five teenagers visited Helen & Douglas House's first #Network event earlier this month to meet other people through a variety of entertaining activities.

The day of fun in the sun, a sign that summer is just around the corner, aimed to give children, who can become more isolated as they head towards adulthood, the chance to meet fellow ill youngsters who use the hospice.

Its aim is also to allow young people to try new experiences and have a good time.

The East Oxford hospice runs a series of events so teenagers can meet similar people, giving parents and children time and space to support each other in an alternative environment.

The networking day began with some ice breaking games including banana surgery, which involves cutting and reassembling the fruit.

They then created their very own action animation film on an iPad before the highlight of the day – graffiti art.

Ethan, 16, from Bicester, has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and has been visiting Helen & Douglas House since 2011.

The teen particularly enjoyed the graffiti and his works of art included an owl, a star and headphones.

Nursery manager Becky Wolf, who came up with the idea for the project, said: "It was great to gather these teenagers together as a group because they often do not meet on their respite stays with us.

"This was the first time we have done graffiti art with our children and it was a huge success. It is definitely something which appeals to teenagers and we will use this activity again in future. One of the teenagers said he had learnt two new skills which was brilliant."

Following the success of this event, similar activities will be held quarterly in July, October and December.

Visit tinyurl.com/ycgq3o9t to donate.

Oxfordshire Guardian & The Oxford Paper Supporting Helen & Douglas House hospice care for children and young adults

New skills: Ethan chooses graffiti designs with paediatric nurse Wendy Aubry in the sunshine

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Bus fare rises blamed on congestion

ONE of Oxford's main bus companies has blamed congestion and lengthening journey times for increasing fares on its buses.

Stagecoach confirmed last week that prices will go up in Oxford with single fares increasing by 10p and returns by 20p.

Prices for the Oxford Tube, the Oxford to London service will rise for the first time since 2015, with a single going up by £1. Return fares have been cut by £1 but the next day return option has been scrapped.

The company said the cost of other tickets, including the 7 day megarider, would be frozen.

Children will now go free on 'connector' tickets which allows travel on local services to connect to and from the Oxford Tube stops.

Martin Sutton, managing director of Stagecoach in Oxfordshire, said: "We have worked hard to reduce our costs and keep fare increases down to a minimum, and many people, particularly Oxford SmartZone customers, will see no increase at all.

"However, due to the effects of worsening congestion and falling journey speeds our operating costs are rising and therefore our prices have to increase to compensate for this."

The changes will come into effect from Sunday.

Stroke of good luck

Oar-some: The Active Body, Healthy Mind sports project run by Aspire provides disadvantaged people with sports and social activities to improve well-being, self esteem and confidence and has been boosted by the partnership

AN Oxford charity that supports vulnerable people back into work has been given a boost with the launch of a new business partnership.

Aspire Oxford has been nominated as the central Oxford charity partner for the Midcounties Co-operative.

The company will organise fundraising events for the charity and set up donation points in up to 50 Co-ooperative Food stores.

Fundraisers will also take part in various sporting challenges on behalf of Aspire, including sportive Bike Oxford and the Oxford Half Marathon.

The partnership will also provide funding for a Back-to-Work scheme and provide Aspire trainees with week-long work placements to re-introduce them to a working environment.

Aspire chief executive Paul Roberts said: "We're over the moon about the partnership as their support will make all the difference to the number of people we can reach."

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Out & About

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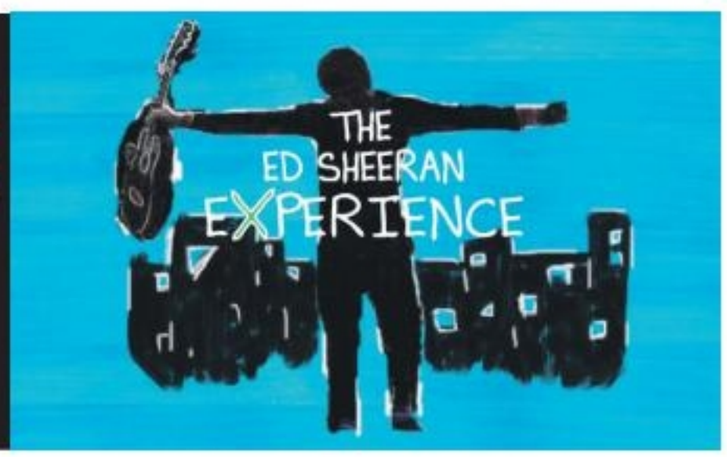

Out & About

A thoroughly entertaining show

By Samantha McGregor

MUSICAL Thoroughly Modern Millie starring former soap actress Hayley Tamaddon in the title role will stop off in Oxford as part of a UK tour.

Hayley, who played Del Dingle in Emmerdale and later Andrea Beckett in Coronation Street, takes on the role of Millie Dilmount, a Kansas girl determined to make it big in New York City.

This award-winning musical takes to the stage at the New Theatre from May 1 to 5.

Winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie is based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film.

It takes the audience back to the height of the Jazz Age in 1920s New York City, when 'moderns' including a flapper named Millie Dillmount, were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, entering the workforce and rewriting the rules of love.

Millie moves to New York City from Kansas and wants to make it big in the city.

She is determined not to go home and even rips up her return ticket, but when she checks in to a hotel owned by the leader of a white slavery ring in China, her problems begin.

Watch out for explosive tap numbers to a Fred and Ginger dance routine on a window ledge, and featuring hit songs including Gimme Gimme and Not for the Life of Me, Thoroughly Modern Millie is a funny and entertaining show for all the family.

Tamaddon won the fifth series of ITV1's Dancing on Ice and also appeared in television shows Accused, Shameless, Waterloo Road, Where the Heart Is and The Royal.

Her musical theatre roles include UK tours of Chicago, Spamalot, The Rocky Horror Show, Grease, Boogie Nights, Fame, The Vagina Monologues and in John Godber's play Muddy Cows.

She also played Diana Morales in A Chorus Line at Sheffield Theatre, and appeared in West End versions of Boyband and Mamma Mia.

Lucas Rush, who has a string of theatre credits to his name, returns as the evil proprietor of the Hotel Priscilla, Mrs Meers, a role he made his own during the 2017 tour of Thoroughly Modern Millie.

For more information or tickets drop into the New Theatre box office in George Street, call 0844 871 3020 or go to atgtickets.com/oxford

Look out for Hairy Bikers popping up at Cornbury fest

ONE of Britain's favourite cooking duos The Hairy Bikers will be roaring into Oxfordshire this summer to join Cornbury Festival.

Si King and Dave Myers will be giving festival goers a unique culinary experience when they open their pop-up Wood Fired Restaurant Adventure for the three-day festival at Great Tew Estate from July 13 to 15.

Festival goers can enjoy a delicious menu based on recipes from the pair's BBC TV series and best-selling book The Hairy Bikers Mediterranean Adventure, the bikers will be cooking and sharing their stories for guests throughout the three days.

Festival organiser Hugh Phillimore said: "We've always prided ourselves on providing a great food offering throughout the festival so we're obviously thrilled that The Bikers have chosen us to host their world exclusive pop up restaurant.

"If there were any foodies that fitted our particular festival 'vibe' it would have to be The Bikers – very English, rather eccentric and particularly delicious."

Taking to the stage at Cornbury this summer are Alanis Morissette, Pixie Lott, UB40, Stereo MCs, Zucchero, Deacon Blue, Jimmy Cliff, Marc Cohn, PP Arnold and Squeeze.

For more information and tickets view cornburyfestival.com

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Recent data reveals the staggering potential wealth available to the UK's elderly homeowners

Property becomes an increasingly important component of your wealth as you age, and this has never been truer with low interest rates affecting savings and pensions underperforming.

Nevertheless, research by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) indicates that over-55 UK homeowners could be sitting on a goldmine with their accumulated property wealth calculated to total £2.5 trillion[1]. To place this figure in context, the UK's elderly homeowners could potentially access more wealth than the GDP of France (£2.4 trillion), according to the latest IMF projections[2].

However, the CML report also indicates that mortgage debt is rising fastest amongst older households, plus incomes traditionally drop in later life. The question is how can this asset wealth be used to benefit you?

Accessing a portion of the equity stored in your home now could provide you with a timely financial boost in later life. If you're a UK homeowner over the age of 55, you may be eligible for a Lifetime Mortgage that could see you access as little as £10,000 of the wealth in your property – a tiny fraction in light of the statistics above – which could help you clear any existing mortgage debts, and provide you with financial security and freedom in retirement.

A Lifetime Mortgage allows you to convert some of the value of your property into a tax-free cash sum, without having to give up ownership of your home. Lifetime Mortgage plans have no fixed-end date and come with no required monthly repayments, so the funds you release are yours to spend as you wish. The mortgage and accrued interest are not due for repayment until both you and your partner either pass away or both enter long-term care.

If you are concerned about the build-up of the loan value over time, plans are available that allow you to pay off up to 10pc of the mortgage balance each year without penalty. This can help offset the interest accrued and help to secure some of the property's wealth for your future use.

What's more, with plans from Equity Release Council-approved lenders you will benefit from the safety of the no-negative equity guarantee, ensuring that you and your family will never owe more than the value of your home. Plans from approved lenders also allow you the option of moving to a suitable alternative property, subject to the lender's criteria.

On top of this, competitive rates of fixed interest are available, which allow you to get an accurate projection, so you know exactly what is happening with your money at all times.

There's no need to face the golden years of retirement with the clouds of mortgage debt or limited incomes looming on the horizon. After years of responsible saving and hard work, your property could provide you with the financial boost to face the future with confidence, so you can have the retirement you deserve.

[1] Source: Council of Mortgage Lenders, 'Later life borrowing, New mindsets: old silos', June 2017, p.23.
[2] Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, April 2017.

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Charming: Ballerina Walk
Picture: *Emily O'Neil*

Take a summer evening stroll

FOR the first time in June, Greys Court is opening its gates after hours for guests to enjoy drinks and canapés in the tranquil walled gardens.

Every Tuesday and Thursday in June, pre-booked guests can enjoy touring the garden at the property near Henley at exactly the time of year and time of day when the garden is at its most magical.

Set in the rolling hills of the Chilterns, Greys Court is a picturesque Tudor manor house surrounded by layers of history, intimate walled gardens and glorious wooded parkland.

The house is warm and welcoming, unfurling the memories of the Brunner family through the rooms of their comfortable home.

Across the perfect lawn, a medieval tower and patchwork of mellow brick buildings conceal an English country garden. Through an ancient arch, seasonal blooms are revealed, from bright bulbs through clematis and wisteria to glorious peonies and roses in the summer.

Guests on the evening tour will discover the walled garden as a series of rooms which reveal themselves through wrought metalwork gates and hidden doors in walls.

Lining the path from the kitchen garden to the wooden statue of a former much-loved head gardener is one of the oldest varieties of roses, the Rosamundi.

The path is a treat to walk along in June when the double-hedge is heavy with blooms. The rose garden is full of old-fashioned scented varieties which are at their most perfumed in the warm, heavy air of an early summer evening.

The latest works of the Oxford Sculpture Group will also be displayed throughout the garden and in the Tudor Cromwellian building for guests to view.

Drinks and canapés will be served near the Oval Lawn.

The event will run from 6.30pm – 8pm, and is £25 per person. Booking is essential via the What's On section on the Greys Court website.

For further information about the evenings visit http://www.national-trust.org.uk/greys-court

Back doing what he does best

Catch Dara O Briain, one of the most recognisable faces on British TV, as he goes back to his day job as a world class stand up comedian.

Dara returns to the stage in 2018 with his eagerly awaited new stand-up show Voice Of Reason and will be spending this weekend in Oxford.

This is the chance to see one of the most charismatic, intelligent, fast-talking and downright funny live performers working back in his natural environment.

Dara is one of the most in demand faces on British TV as host of BBC2's hugely successful Mock The Week, Stargazing Live, Robot Wars and Dave's Go8Bit.

Dara has also previously released five classic stand-up DVDs among numerous one-hour specials on the BBC.

He will be at The New Theatre, Oxford on Saturday and Sunday from 8pm both nights.

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For more information or for tickets call 0844 871 3020 or visit atgtickets.com/oxford.

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Out & About

Discover Handa's surprise through music and song

By Josh Cox

TAKE a trip to Kenya and join Handa as she journeys to see her best friend Akeyo in the next village.

Handa is taking seven delicious fruits as a surprise, but seven different animals have very different ideas about the destination of the fruits.

As she walks with the basket balanced on her head, she is unaware of the animals' intentions from a cheeky monkey to a crafty antelope.

Physical performance, puppetry, live music and song combine to create an intimate, magical production with plenty of audience participation in Handa's Surprise.

The family show beautifully captures the imagery of an African village; the colours of the landscape, its animals and its food.

The show is based on the award-winning children's picture book by Eileen Browne and created for the stage by Little Angel Theatre.

Time Out magazine described the show as "the gentle wit of Eileen Browne's popular story is captured. And the two-to-five-year-old children's smiles can only increase at the end of the show when they are offered their final surprise".

Audiences will be in safe hands as the theatre company has built up a wealth of experience since it launched in 1961, specialising in theatre designed for children and for the presentation of marionette shows.

Handa's Surprise will take over the Cornerstone in Didcot on May 6 with three performances.

Full price tickets are £8, concession tickets cost £6 and there are discounted family tickets available.

Performances will take place at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm. For more information or to book, call the box office on 01235 515144 or visit cornerstone.arts-org

The running time is approximately 35 minutes and the show is aimed at children between two to six years old.

On stage

A to ZZ of covers

Subway Band are set to rock The Crawley Inn in Witney on Saturday.

Four-piece covers band Subway Band was established in 2003 and boast a catalogue of over 250 songs, from Adele through to ZZ Top and everything in between.

The band will kick off at 9pm, with free entry.

New to the scene

The Cross Keys in Witney is to host local band, The Hoolifruits on May 12 from 9pm till late.

The rock and blues band are one of Oxfordshire's freshest faces, yet in their brief time have built up a great reputation for classic rock covers.

There is no entry fee.

Witney Beer Fest

Witney will toast the seventh Witney Beer festival on May 5 at St Mary's Church.

The day will not only showcase a wide range of locally brewed beers and ciders but also an array of entertainment.

Entrance is £10 and includes a commemorative glass, plus three tokens worth half a pint each.

It runs from noon until 10pm – beer permitting.

>> Share your entertainment news: josh@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Fairport's Cropredy Convention

A weekend in the country - at the friendliest music festival under the sun

THURSDAY 9 FRIDAY 10 & SATURDAY 11 AUGUST 2018

Cropredy near Banbury Oxfordshire M40 Junction 11

THURSDAY

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SATURDAY

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AFROCELT SOUND SYSTEM

SAM KELLY & THE LOST BOYS

WILL VARLEY THE BAR-STEWARD SONS OF VAL DOONICAN

ERIC SEDGE RICHARD DIGANCE Your compere for the weekend ANTHONY JOHN CLARKE

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TICKETS

ORDER BY MAY 31:		JUNE 1 - JULY 31:		AFTER JULY 31:	
THREE DAY	£135	Three day	£140	Three day	£145
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SATURDAY ONLY	£75	Saturday only	£80	Saturday only	£85

UNDER 12s ADMITTED FREE but all children must be accompanied by a ticket buying adult.

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Three day	£45
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*Charges are per vehicle, not person. Bikers & backpackers camp for FREE

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Out&About Competition

WIN a kid's VIP celebration package at Hollywood Bowl!

We've teamed up with the folks at Hollywood Bowl, Ozone Leisure Park, Oxford to offer you the chance to win a kid's celebration package for six children, including one game of VIP bowling, a kid's meal and mocktail each, UV wristbands and a framed photo of the group!

Whether you're looking for a perfect after school treat, birthday party or any other celebration – Hollywood Bowl has got it covered with great food, drinks, awesome amusements and of course bowling.

So what are you waiting for? Let the good times roll!

For more information, check out the Hollywood Bowl website and sign up to the newsletter to receive all the latest news and exclusive offers straight to your inbox.

Closing date: Tues, May 8

Win tickets

For your chance to win this awesome package, just answer the following simple question:

Q: Where in Oxford is Hollywood Bowl located?

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
For full terms & conditions go to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk/about-us

hollywood bowl

Terms and conditions

1. Prize winners are entitled to one game of bowling for six children, including VIP lanes where available, kid's meal and mocktail per person, UV wristbands and a framed photo of the group at Hollywood Bowl Oxford.
2. Valid until August 2018
3. Closing date for entries is Tuesday, May 8, 2018, entries submitted after this date will not be counted.
4. Judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.
5. Prize winners will be contacted within 30 days of being notified that they are a winner by email, with details of how to claim their prize.
6. Supply of your contact email address is required to be eligible to enter the competition. It will be used by Hollywood Bowl and its agencies to contact you if you've won.
7. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.
8. Reservations are subject to the centre's availability and must be booked in advance and at the centre manager's discretion.
9. Prize is valid from Monday to Friday only.
10. Prize is not valid during May school holidays and bank holidays, and must be booked in advance.
11. No cash alternative.
12. Entrants must be over 18 years of age.
13. Promoter: The Hollywood Bowl Group, 31 Mark Rd, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 7BW.
14. Usual Promoter details apply

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*Terms and Conditions apply – ask a member of staff for details. Voucher must be used by the 30th September 2018. Voucher worth is including VAT.

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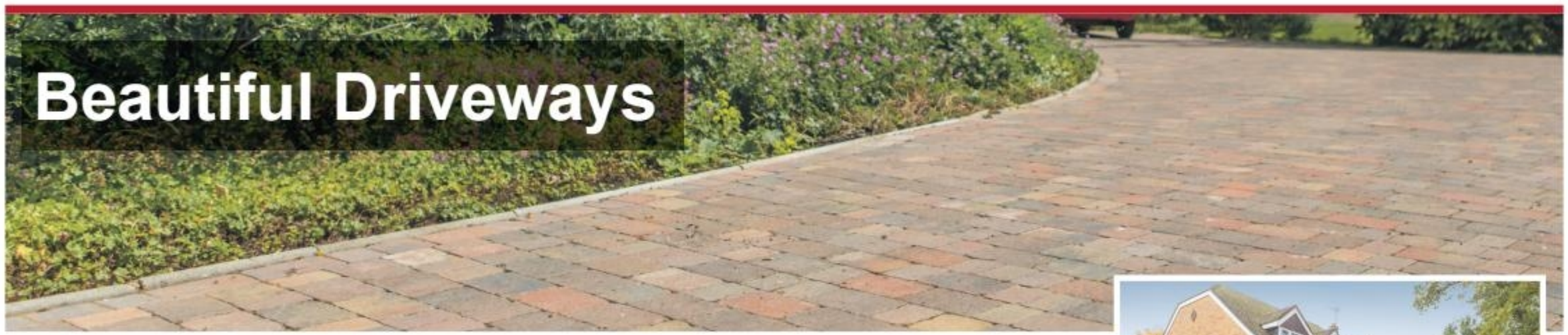

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puzzle drome

Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE

23	10	15	3	16	15	6	11	■	25	16	9	8
20	■	19	■	9	■	12	■	8	■	17	■	20
12	14	11	12	8	15	10	■	1	4	4	10	12
4	■	10	■	10	■	9	24	25	■	10	■	22
■	14	1	6	1	25	1	■	4	10	1	5	15
10	■	■	24	■	15	20	21	15	■	25	■	24
15	6	1	8	20	15	■	12	10	25	15	10	21
17	■	14	■	12	10	1	20	■	2	■	■	7
20	2	24	6	4	■	14	12	13	15	10	11	■
24	■	25	■	26	15	11	■	24	■	12	■	17
14	7	24	6	1	■	16	6	15	3	16	1	20
1	■	11	■	9	■	1	■	18	■	11	■	16
21	11	2	15	■	14	20	16	21	11	15	10	21

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4 G	5	6	7	8	9	10 R	11	12 O	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

CAMP PLATE SAMPLES

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. Car manufacturer Dacia is based in which country?
2. The Victoria Falls is part of which African river?
3. What name is given to the man who leads prayers in a mosque?
4. From Black Holes to the Big Bang is the subtitle of which popular science book?
5. Which comedy panel show, hosted by Rob Brydon, features Lee Mack and David Mitchell as team captains?
6. Las Vegas is the largest city in which desert?
7. The mobile phone company Nokia was founded in which country?
8. In rowing, what name is given to a margin of victory of about five to six feet?
9. Catherine Zeta-Jones played Roxie Hart, a housewife who aspires to be a vaudevillian, in which 2002 musical film?
10. Which nine-letter word containing the letter E three times, means lasting for a very short time?

NONAGRAM

M	A	Y
G	N	U
M	I	S

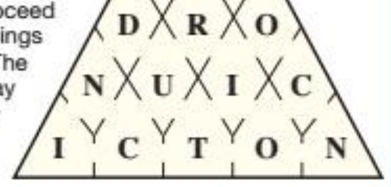
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
16 Good; 19 Very Good; 22 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

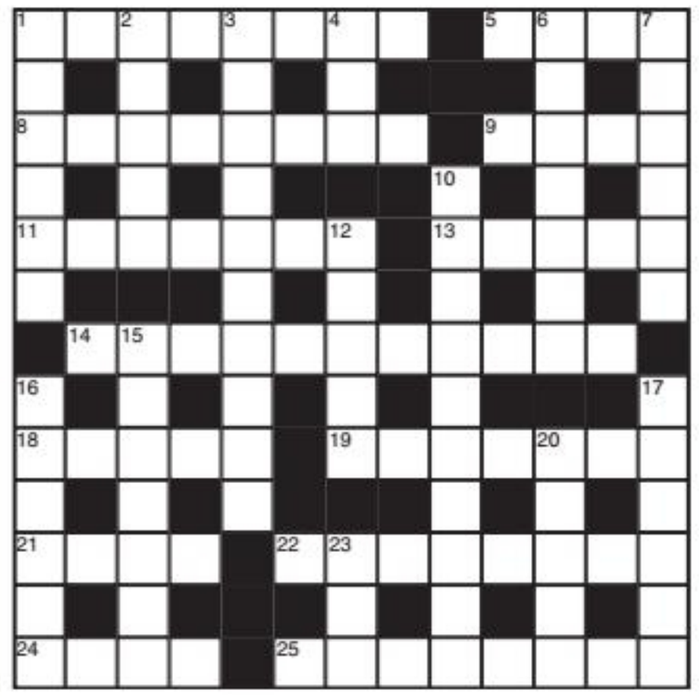


FIVE ALIVE

WG	RA	AF	ES	RP
ER	■	LP	■	EA
AI	PR	RA	TO	NE
RP	■	MI	■	DT
HD	RE	EL	LS	SO

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Stamp that changes daily (8)
5. Vehicle in which Zulu leader goes as emperor (4)
8. Anyhow uncle had set sail (8)
9. Heroic part of the picture (4)
11. A lot of small grains in the container will help stop flooding (7)
13. Wooden pin coming from hotel (5)
14. Soldiers of a very junior division? (11)
18. Small error pales out of recognition (5)
19. Make a hasty repair to plot of land at university (5,2)
21. Way of moving the entrance, so to speak (4)
22. Sneak in late (8)
24. It was worn out by the Romans (4)
25. Andre hears extra part to practise (8)

DOWN

1. Put a gloss on the tongue? (6)
2. Reject stimulus now to start with (5)
3. One whose job is to hold up the staff – with tear gas? (4-6)
4. Grain for 24 blackbirds? (3)
6. High speed top secret American delivery system (3,4)
7. Noise of a fiddle? (6)
10. Sort of person who is not likely to be found out (4-2-4)
12. Rise and put clothes on (3,2)
15. Moving smartly by checking growth (7)
16. Set of stairs taken by aircraft passengers (6)
17. Scattered spears all over the place (6)
20. Poet or pigeon (5)
23. Said by one who does not agree in Scotland (3)

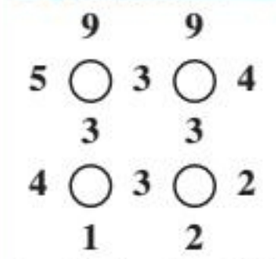
SUDOKU

Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

	5	8			2			
	4		3				7	
7	1					2	6	9
		7			5	6	1	
2			9			7	5	8
	8	1				4		2
			5		3		2	
			8		9		4	
	2	9	1	7	4	5		

			3					5
	5			7	8			
			6		2	4		
6								7
1			8		3	9		
	8	7						
		1		2	6			
	9	8	5					3
			9			5		

EQUALISER



Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to **www.puzzledrome.com**

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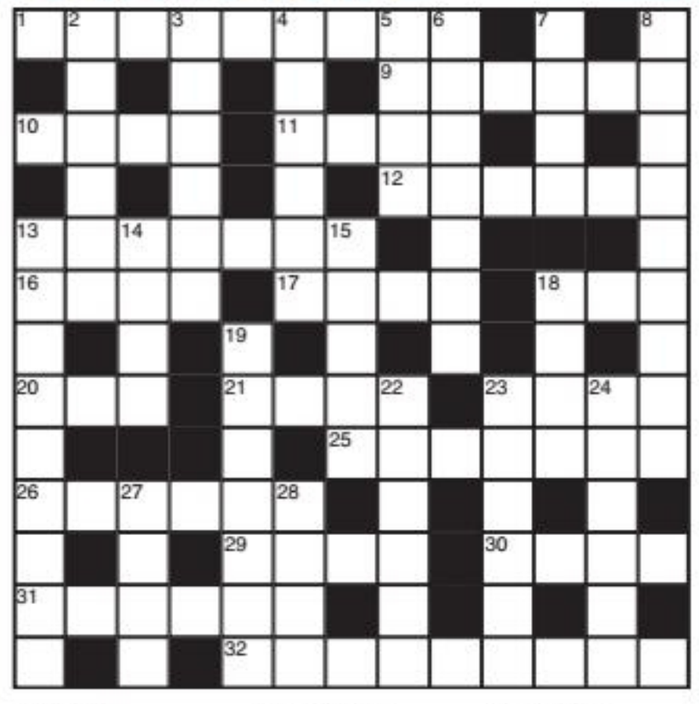
QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Filling with air (9)
9. Simply (6)
10. Brother (US dialect) (4)
11. Russian river (4)
12. Lapwing (6)
13. Mogul (7)
16. Holm-oak (4)
17. Spun thread (4)
18. Craze (3)
20. Illuminated (3)
21. Rush (4)
23. Perfumed powder (4)
25. Cheese on toast (7)
26. Die (inf.) (3,3)
29. Seaweed (4)
30. Splendour (4)
31. Give exact meaning (6)
32. Proficiency (9)

DOWN

2. Usual (6)
3. Throat cavity (6)
4. Reliable (6)
5. Low tide (4)
6. Brave (7)
7. Ukrainian capital (4)
8. Side effect (2-7)
13. Woodlouse (9)
14. Refined man (inf.) (4)
15. Keen (5)
18. Excess body fat (inf.) (4)
19. Irreverent (7)
22. Hurt (6)
23. Spouted vessel (6)
24. Chemical paper (6)
27. Breath (4)
28. Bendable cord (4)

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 Romania; 2 Zambezi River; 3 Imam; 4 A Brief History of Time; 5 Would I Lie to You?; 6 Mojave Desert; 7 Finland; 8 Canvas; 9 Chicago; 10 Ephemeral.

CROSS CODE

1 A	2 Y	3 Q	4 G	5 Z	6 N	7 H	8 B	9 M	10 R	11 T	12 O	13 V	14 C	15 E	16 U	17 P	18 W	19 X	20 L	21 S	22 K	23 F	24 I	25 D	26 J

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:
Across – 1 Postmark; 5 Czar; 8 Launched; 9 Epic; 11 Sandbag; 13 Thole; 14 Infantrymen; 18 Lapse; 19 Patch up; 21 Gait; 22 Informer; 24 Toga; 25 Rehearse.
Down – 1 Polish; 2 Spurn; 3 Mace-bearer; 4 Rye; 6 Zip code; 7 Racket; 10 Stay-at-home; 12 Get up; 15 Nipping; 16 Flight; 17 Sparse; 20 Homer; 23 Nae.

QUICK CROSSWORD:
Across – 1 Inflating; 9 Easily; 10 Bro; 11 Ural; 12 Plover; 13 Magnate; 16 Ilex; 17 Yarn; 18 Fad; 20 Lit; 21 Reed; 23 Talc; 25 Barebit; 26 Pop off; 29 Alga; 30 Pomp; 31 Define; 32 Expertise.
Down – 2 Normal; 3 Larynx; 4 Trusty; 5 Neap; 6 Gallant; 7 Kiev; 8 By-product; 13 Millipede; 14 Gent; 15 Eager; 18 Flab; 19 Profane; 22 Damage; 23 Teapot; 24 Litmus; 27 Puff; 28 Flex.

HARD SUDOKU

8	6	4	3	1	9	2	7	5
3	5	2	4	7	8	9	6	1
7	1	9	6	5	2	4	3	8
6	4	3	1	9	5	8	2	7
1	2	5	7	8	4	3	9	6
9	8	7	2	6	3	1	5	4
5	3	1	8	2	6	7	4	9
2	9	8	5	4	7	6	1	3
4	7	6	9	3	1	5	8	2

EASY SUDOKU

6	5	8	7	9	2	1	3	4
9	4	2	3	1	6	8	7	5
7	1	3	4	5	8	2	6	9
4	9	7	2	8	5	6	1	3
2	3	6	9	4	1	7	5	8
5	8	1	6	3	7	4	9	2
8	7	4	5	6	3	9	2	1
1	6	5	8	2	9	3	4	7
3	2	9	1	7	4	5	8	6

MAGIC SQUARE: clap; lame; amps; pest.

WORD PYRAMID: Induction course.

EQUALISER: Clockwise from top left – subtract; add; divide; multiply. Total: 6.

NONAGRAM: agin; amusing; animus; anus; gain; gamin; guan; GYMNASIUM; magnum; main; mangy; manus; many; maying; mingy; minus; musing; myna; sang; saying; sign; sing; snag; snug; suing; summing; sung; unsay; using; yang; yuan.

FIVE ALIVE:
(1) **Across** – Water; irate; Dress. **Down** – Weird; Flame; Reeds.
(2) **Across** – Grasp; Apron; Hello. **Down** – Graph; April; Panto.

Who Cares?

Advertising Feature

The longevity of love

As Prince Harry and Meghan Markle tie the knot with all the fanfare of a royal wedding, and set out together into married life, many of us looking back over the years know that a successful marriage is about far more than the romance of a courtship and the glitz of the big day.

After all,

All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players;

They have their exits and their entrances;

And one man in his time plays many parts,

His acts being seven ages.

William Shakespeare: *As you like it*

Silver, ruby, gold and diamond wedding anniversaries, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th respectively are the celebrations of lives spent together for those that have had the fortune to enjoy the longevity of such a partnership.

With mirth and laughter, let old wrinkles come

William Shakespeare: Merchant of Venice

The Queen and Prince Philip celebrated their seventieth or platinum anniversary last year whilst Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet never made it. However, Chipping Norton Theare plays host this month to Romeo and Juliet all grown up, presenting a lyrical play by Ben Powers that reimagines the star-crossed lovers if the classic play had ended differently, without the premature deaths of the principle pair, and then this married couple had grown old together, their love altered by time but no less strong because of it. Romeo would perhaps have agreed with Anthony who said of Cleopatra, Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety

(William Shakespeare: Anthony and Cleopatra).

Cleverly taking words from Shakespeare's original and weaving them into a different narrative told only by the long-term lovers, it's a heart-breakingly romantic story of loyalty, enduring love, and then the loss of it at the end of their lives together. This mature poetic reflection on their time together and on the challenges of advancing years, presented with both tender pathos and gentle humour, is thought-provoking.

A Tender Thing by Ben Power at The Theatre, Chipping Norton, runs from 3rd-12th May with 'relaxed' afternoon performances on Wed 9th and Sunday 12th.

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Dining at The Lamb Inn
Enjoy the comfort of our delightful Cotswold restaurant with an open log fire. We have worked hard to source fresh quality local and British produce in order to produce seasonal menus, which are truly British, all freshly cooked on the premises by our Head Chef Tim Jones. After your meal enjoy a relaxing drink in our Cotswold Pub.

Stay in our luxury Cotswold accommodation
Our Cotswold accommodation offers five stylish ensuite guest rooms, which have an individual style by interior designer Jean Harrod. They feature high quality fitting and furnishings, and individual marble bathrooms with power showers, to make your feel pampered and cosseted.
Shipton-under-Wychwood provides the perfect location to settle down for a few nights. You will find tranquility amongst the Cotswold surroundings and the ancient Wychwood forest that will leave a lasting memory with you.
All our rooms are non-smoking and offer free Wi-Fi, television and beverage tray. Our rooms offer the perfect place to turn in after enjoying a gratifying meal in our Restaurant.

17th May Charity Horse Riding Event
Wednesday is pie night

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Thursday April 26th

BBC 1

5.15pm Pointless

MORNING

9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Heir Hunters
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm 800 Words
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Flipping Profit
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm The Truth About Obesity
9.00pm Ambulance
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Question Time
11.45pm This Week
12.30am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.35am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

1.00pm Snooker

MORNING

8.00am David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
8.30am Kate Humble: Off the Beaten Track
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live

AFTERNOON

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm Snooker

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Britain in Bloom
7.00pm Antiques Road Trip
8.00pm Super Fast Falcon
9.00pm Civilisations
10.00pm Match of the Day
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.05am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.05am MasterChef
2.35am The Secret Helpers
3.35am Murder, Mystery and My Family

ITV

9.00pm Harold Shipman

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Tonight
8.00pm Emmerdale
8.30pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
9.00pm Harold Shipman
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm UEFA Europa League Highlights
11.45pm Play to the Whistle
12.20am Lethal Weapon
1.05am Give it a Year

Channel 4

8.00pm Location, Location, Location

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Hotel Hell
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Coast v Country
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now
6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News

EVENING

8.00pm Location, Location, Location
9.00pm 999: What's Your Emergency?
10.00pm True Horror
11.05pm Gogglebox
12.00am The Real Football Fan Show
12.35am The Island with Bear Grylls
1.30am The Secret Life of the Zoo
2.25am Class of Mum and Dad
3.20am Come Dine Champion of Champions
4.15am Building the Dream
5.10am Fifteen to One
6.00am Countdown
6.45am 3rd Rock from the Sun

Channel 5

9.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

MORNING

8.20am Floogals
8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am The Yorkshire Vet

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm The Front
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours
6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight

EVENING

7.00pm The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door
8.00pm Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords
9.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
10.00pm Michael Portillo: Our Housing Crisis - Who,Äôs to Blame?
11.30pm Where There's Blame, There's a Claim
12.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am Tattoo Disasters UK
4.25am Tattoo Disasters UK
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Wildlife SOS

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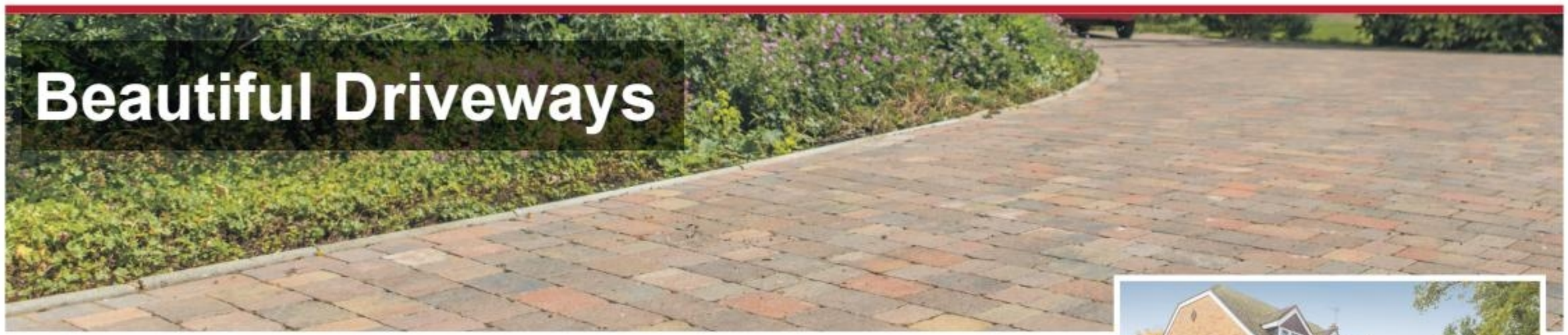

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- Project managers
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- Insurance companies
- Building companies
- Business owners/ company directors
- Local authorities
- Councils
- Film companies

Composite Wood Garden Offices

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Friday April 27th

BBC 1

TOP TV

9.00pm Have I Got News for You

MORNING

9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am Heir Hunters
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm 800 Words
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Flipping Profit
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm Sounds Like Friday Night
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm The Button
9.00pm Have I Got News for You
9.30pm Home from Home
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.25pm Regional News and Weather
10.35pm The Graham Norton Show
11.25pm Wannabe
11.50pm Tropic Thunder
1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead

BBC 2

10.00pm Episodes

MORNING

7.15am Rip Off Britain
8.00am Great Continental Railway Journeys
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
10.00am Snooker

AFTERNOON

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm Snooker

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Britain in Bloom
7.00pm Antiques Road Trip
8.00pm Gardeners' World
9.00pm The City and the City
10.00pm Episodes
10.30pm Newsnight
11.05pm Front Row Late
11.35pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.25am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.25am Panorama
2.55am Civilisations

ITV

8.00pm Love Your Garden

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point

EVENING

5.00pm The Chase
6.00pm ITV News London
6.25pm Party Election Broadcast
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Love Your Garden
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Lethal Weapon
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show
11.15pm Through the Keyhole

Channel 4

9.00pm Gogglebox

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.25am Frasier
9.55am Formula 1
11.45am Channel 4 News
11.50am Coast v Country

AFTERNOON

12.50pm Posh Pawnbrokers
1.55pm Formula 1
3.35pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
7.30pm Unreported World
8.00pm Our Wildest Dreams
9.00pm Gogglebox
10.00pm Lee and Dean
10.35pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
11.35pm First Dates
12.35am Solomon Kane
2.20am True Horror
3.15am Kiss Me First

Channel 5

7.00pm The Gadget Show

MORNING

8.20am Floogals
8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Paddington Station 24/7

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm The Nightmare Nanny
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours
6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Gadget Show

EVENING

8.00pm Britain's Great Cathedrals, with Tony Robinson
9.00pm Portillo's Hidden History of Britain
10.00pm Jack the Ripper: The Missing Evidence
11.00pm Stonehenge
12.00am Super Casino
2.50am The Kennedys: Decline and Fall
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Wildlife SOS
5.35am House Doctor
6.00am Little Princess
6.10am Wissper

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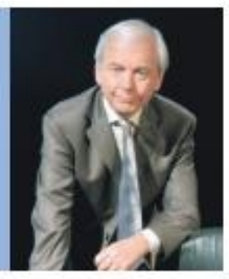
Saturday April 28th

BBC 1



5.50pm Celebrity Mastermind

TOP TV

10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure

MORNING

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Snooker
4.30pm Final Score
5.20pm A Question of Sport
5.50pm Celebrity Mastermind

AFTERNOON

6.20pm Ready or Not
6.50pm BBC News
7.00pm Regional News and Weather
7.10pm Pointless
8.00pm Who Dares Wins
8.40pm Casualty
9.30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Match of the Day
11.45pm The Button
12.15am City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold
2.00am Weather for the Week Ahead
2.05am BBC News

EVENING

BBC 2

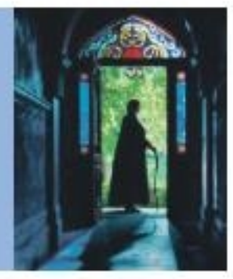
10.30pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story

7.10am The Pets Factor
7.30am The Dengineers
8.00am Absolute Genius: Monster Builds
8.30am Beyond Bionic
9.00am Robot Wars
10.00am Snooker

12.00pm Wanted Down Under
12.45pm Flipping Profit
1.30pm In at the Deep End
2.30pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
3.30pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
4.30pm Snooker
5.30pm Britain in Bloom

6.00pm Antiques Road Trip
7.00pm Snooker
8.00pm The Forest
8.30pm Dad's Army
9.00pm Civilisations on Your Doorstep
10.00pm Performance Live: Akala Presents the Ruins of Empires
10.30pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story
11.25pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.15am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.15am Civilisations

ITV



11.20am Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang

8.25am ITV News
8.30am Zoe Ball on Saturday
9.25am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.20am Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang

1.20pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.30pm ITV Racing: Live from Sandown
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm ITV Evening News
6.15pm ITV News London
6.30pm Ninja Warrior UK
7.30pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule
8.00pm Britain's Got Talent
9.20pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show
9.50pm ITV News
10.05pm Overboard
12.15am Change Your Tune
1.10am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sooty

Channel 4

9.00pm Iron Man

7.05am King of Queens
7.30am Everybody Loves Raymond
9.00am Frasier
9.30am Frasier
10.00am The Big Bang Theory
10.55am Formula 1

12.25pm F1 Meets... Jackie Stewart
12.55pm Formula 1
3.45pm Car S.O.S
4.45pm A Place in the Sun
5.30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm The Restoration Man
8.00pm Britain's Most Historic Towns
9.00pm Iron Man
11.25pm The Maze Runner
1.30am Undercover Boss USA
2.20am Hollyoaks Omnibus
4.35am Come Dine Champion of Champions
5.30am Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star
5.55am Kirstie's Vintage Gems
6.05am King of Queens
6.30am King of Queens

Channel 5

6.00pm World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera

9.25am Digby Dragon
9.45am Peppa Pig
9.50am Peppa Pig
9.55am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.30am The Gadget Show
11.25am Police Interceptors

12.25pm Police Interceptors
1.25pm Police Interceptors
2.30pm Live Premiership Rugby
5.15pm World's Scariest Animal Attacks

6.00pm World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera
7.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Football on 5
10.00pm Football on 5
10.30pm Dances with Wolves
1.35am Super Casino
3.00am Highlander
5.00am Wildlife SOS
5.25am House Doctor
5.50am Access
6.00am Little Princess

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MC Lars + Koo Koo Kanga Roo

Thur 26th Apr • 7.00pm
Will Heard

Thur 26th Apr • 7.00pm
Don Broco + The LaFontaines + Yungblud

Fri 27th Apr • 6.30pm
Heather Small - The voice of M People

Fri 27th Apr • 6.30pm
I Want To Play Common People: Oxford

Sat 28th Apr • 7.00pm
Bingo Lingo A New Breed Of Bingo

Sat 28th Apr • 6.30pm
UK Foo Fighters Banging On the Ceiling Tour

Wed 2nd May • 6.30pm
Ocean Wisdom

Thur 3rd May • 7.00pm
Lower Than Atlantis

Fri 4th May • 6.30pm
Rhys Lewis

Fri 4th May • 6.30pm
Wilko Johnson + Hugh Cornwell Band

Fri 4th May • 11.00pm
Mighty Crown Far East Rulers

Sat 5th May • SOLD OUT • 6.00pm
Frank Turner & The Sleeping Souls

Sat 5th May • 7.00pm
Skeletor feat. The Reaper

Sun 6th May • 7.00pm
Mallory Knox
+ Better Than Never + Towers

Mon 7th May • 7.00pm
The Bluetones + The Velvet Hands

Thur 10th May • 7.00pm
DMA's

Fri 11th May • 6.30pm
Marmozets

Sat 12th May • 6.00pm
Death Remains

Sat 12th May • 6.00pm
Seether

Mon 14th May • 7.00pm
Black Honey

Wed 16th May • 6.30pm
Barrence Whitfield & The Savages

Fri 18th May • 7.00pm
Uprising – BBC Introducing In Oxford (biggest Weekend Fringe event)

Wed 23rd May • 6.30pm
Coco and the Butterfields

Sun 27th May • 6.30pm
Cocaine Piss

Fri 1st Jun • 7.00pm
Carcer City

Sat 2nd Jun • 7.00pm
OMYO

Sat 2nd Jun • 7.00pm
Miles Kane

Thur 7th Jun • 7.00pm
The Wedding Present
"Tommy" 30th Anniversary Tour

Thur 7th Jun • 7.00pm
Tony Christie

Sat 9th Jun • 7.00pm
A Band Called Malice
The Definitive Tribute to The Jam

Thur 14th Jun • 7.00pm
Sona Jobarteh

Fri 15th Jun • 6.30pm
Nick Heyward + Pugwash

Fri 22nd Jun • 7.00pm
Zodiac Reunion Party
Disques Voge, Sky Larkin, Transformation, Osprey

Mon 25th Jun • 7.00pm
Kiefer Sutherland

Sat 30th Jun • 7.00pm
Black Skies Burn
ft Diablo, Last Rites, Hymn To Apollo

Fri 6th Jul • 7.00pm
Super Hans

Fri 3rd Aug • 7.00pm
One State Drive

Thur 6th Sep • 7.00pm
Ben Miller Band

Fri 14th Sep • 6.00pm
Molotov Jukebox

Sat 22nd Sep • 6.30pm
Dressed To Kill - A Tribute To KISS + Electric Circus (A Tribute to W.A.S.P)

Fri 5th Oct • 6.00pm
Imperial Leisure

Fri 5th Oct • 6.30pm
The Magic Gang

Sat 6th Oct • 6.30pm
The Smyths
Unite and Take Over Tour 2018

Fri 12th Oct • 6.30pm
Hollie Cook

Fri 12th Oct • 6.30pm
Antarctic Monkeys

Sat 13th Oct • 6.30pm
Britpop Boys

Thur 18th Oct • 7.00pm
Tom Grennan

Thur 18th Oct • 7.00pm
The Daniel Wakeford Experience

Fri 19th Oct • 6.30pm
Boyzlife

Sat 27th Oct • 6.30pm
Guns 2 Roses

Tue 30th Oct • 7.00pm
Superorganism

Thur 1st Nov • 7.00pm
The Feeling

Fri 2nd Nov • 7.00pm
Neil Hilborn

Sat 10th Nov • 6.30pm
Dubioza Kolektiv

Fri 16th Nov • 6.30pm
Killing Joke

Sat 17th Nov • 6.30pm
Definitely Mightbe Oasis tribute

Tue 27th Nov • 7.00pm
Shame

Fri 7th Dec • 6.30pm
Pearl Jam UK

Sun 2nd Dec • 7.00pm
Bjorn Again

Sat 22nd Dec • 6.30pm
Faith – The George Michael Legacy

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Venue box office opening hours: Mon - Sat 12 - 5.30pm
ticketmaster.co.uk.co.uk • wegottickets.com • seetickets.com • gigantic.com

Sunday April 29th

BBC 1

8.00pm Antiques Roadshow

TOP TV

MORNING

7.30am Match of the Day
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am The Big Questions
11.00am Sunday Politics

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Rip Off Britain
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Bargain Hunt
2.00pm The Truth About Obesity
3.00pm Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
4.00pm Points of View
4.15pm Songs of Praise
4.50pm Pointless
5.35pm BBC News
5.50pm Regional News and Weather

EVENING

6.00pm The Big Painting Challenge
7.00pm Countryfile
8.00pm Antiques Roadshow
9.00pm The Woman in White
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.30pm The Women's Football Show
12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.15am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

1.00pm Snooker

MORNING

7.35am Countryfile
8.30am The Beechgrove Garden
9.00am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
10.00am Snooker
11.00am Triathlon World Series: Bermuda

AFTERNOON

12.15pm MOTD2 Extra
1.00pm Snooker

EVENING

6.00pm Super Fast Falcon
7.00pm Snooker
8.00pm In at the Deep End
9.00pm My Year with the Tribe
10.00pm Famalam
10.20pm Josh Widdicombe
11.20pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.10am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.10am Question Time
3.10am Holby City
4.10am This is BBC Two
6.00am Flog it! Trade Secrets

ITV

3.30pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs

MORNING

9.25am Love Your Garden
10.00am Peston on Sunday
11.00am Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury
11.30am ITV Lunchtime News
11.40am Britain's Got Talent

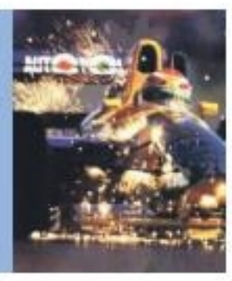
AFTERNOON

12.55pm Britain's Got More Talent
1.55pm Britain's Brightest Family
2.25pm Ninja Warrior UK
3.30pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
4.00pm The Real Camilla: HRH the Duchess of Cornwall

EVENING

5.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special
6.00pm Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule
6.30pm ITV Evening News
6.45pm ITV News London
7.00pm Little Big Shots
8.00pm The Durrells
9.00pm Invitation to a Royal Wedding
10.00pm ITV News
10.20pm Peston on Sunday
11.15pm Last Laugh in Vegas
12.10am This Time Next Year
1.00am Jackpot247
3.00am Motorsport UK
3.50am Take on the Twisters

Channel 4



12.40pm Formula 1

MORNING

7.55am Eat the Week with Iceland
9.00am Sunday Brunch

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Formula 1
12.40pm Formula 1
3.55pm Formula 1
4.30pm Car S.O.S
5.30pm Grand Designs

EVENING

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Escape to the Chateau
8.00pm The Crystal Maze
9.00pm Homeland
10.05pm Gogglebox
11.00pm 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown
12.00am The Voices
2.00am Happy Bhag Jayegi
4.10am Come Dine Champion of Champions
5.05am Building the Dream
6.00am Countdown
6.45am 3rd Rock from the Sun

Channel 5

1.40pm Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole

MORNING

9.25am Peppa Pig
9.35am Peppa Pig
9.40am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.15am Football on 5
11.10am Football on 5
11.40am FIA Formula E: Paris Highlights

AFTERNOON

12.45pm Police Interceptors
1.40pm Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole
3.30pm Zookeeper
4.30pm 5 News
4.35pm Zookeeper
5.25pm Ace Ventura: Pet Detective

EVENING

7.00pm Biggest Dog in the World
8.00pm Before They Were Stars
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Most Shocking Talent Show Moments Ever!
12.00am Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am World's Most Pampered Pets
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Wildlife SOS
5.35am House Doctor
6.00am Peppa Pig

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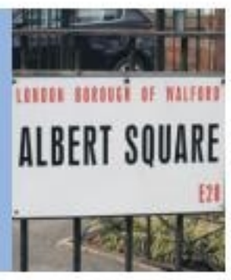
Monday April 30th

BBC 1

8.00pm EastEnders



MORNING

9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am A1: Britain's Longest Road
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm 800 Words
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Flipping Profit
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm Civilisations Stories
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Panorama
9.00pm The Woman in White
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Have I Got a Bit More News for You
11.30pm The Graham Norton Show
12.15am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.20am BBC News

BBC 2

8.00pm Only Connect

MORNING

7.15am Rip Off Britain
8.00am Hugh's Wild West
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
11.00am BBC Newsroom Live
11.30am The Week in Parliament

AFTERNOON

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm Snooker

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Britain in Bloom
7.00pm Snooker
8.00pm Only Connect
8.30pm Coast Lives
9.00pm Secret Agent Selection: WW2
10.00pm QI
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.05am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.05am Countryfile
3.00am MasterChef

ITV

2.00pm Judge Rinder

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.25pm Party Election Broadcast
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Give it a Year
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm The Royal Wives of Windsor
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm Elton John
12.30am Last Laugh in Vegas
1.40am Jackpot247
3.00am The Jeremy Kyle Show

Channel 4

12.05pm Coast v Country

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
9.00am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Hotel Hell
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Coast v Country
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Holidays Unpacked
8.30pm Tricks of the Restaurant Trade
9.00pm The Island with Bear Grylls
10.00pm Kiss Me First
11.00pm 999: What's Your Emergency?
12.05am First Dates
1.00am Lee and Dean
1.30am Our Wildest Dreams
2.25am Hidden Restaurants with Michel Roux Jr
3.20am KOTV Boxing Weekly

Channel 5

8.00pm Police Interceptors

MORNING

8.20am Floogals
8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm The Gadget Show
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Deadly Dance Mom
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
8.00pm Police Interceptors
9.00pm Paddington Station 24/7
10.00pm Britain's Cocaine Epidemic
11.05pm Gangland
12.05am America's Toughest Prisons
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am My Extreme Ocd Life
4.00am World's Most Pampered Pets
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Wildlife SOS

Its official.

Hearing aids can do more than improve your hearing.

Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

A new hearing system is just the beginning and a hearing aid system is only as good as the audiologist prescribing and programming it.

At Keith Donaghy Hearingcare we offer the best bespoke hearing aid systems virtually unnoticeable fitting comfortably into your ear.

Keith will help you every step of the way whilst you adjust to your new hearing ability, for some this takes months for others a matter of a few weeks but Keith is always on hand to answer questions or give advice on getting the best from your system. The last thing he wants (as is often the case when insufficient aftercare is available) is for your hearing aids to end up in the back of a drawer somewhere, unused because you felt that nothing else could be done to rectify any programming or rehabilitation problems.

Keith wants to know if you have any concerns about your hearing aids, no matter how big or small, so that you and he can work together to achieve the best results.

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Fixed Rate Mortgages aren't for everyone

With the recent rise in interest rates Michael Alberts, Principal Mortgage Adviser of Oxfordshire based NGI Residential Mortgages looks at the pros and cons of fixed and variable rate mortgages.

When considering a mortgage one of the principal decisions you'll need to make is whether you are going to opt for a fixed rate mortgage, so your interest rate is fixed for the entire term of your mortgage (2, 3, 5 or 10 years) or whether it will be variable, so your lender can move the rate up or down without consulting you, usually, but not necessarily in line with the government's base rate.

A fixed rate means you know exactly what your repayments will be, enabling you to decide on the size of mortgage you can afford by matching the repayments with your foreseeable household income. Some clients like fixed rate mortgages for the peace of mind it gives them knowing exactly what they'll be paying.

Variable rates may seem more attractive initially because they are usually lower than fixed rates. This is because lenders offering fixed rates have to best-guess what the average interest rate is going to be over the entire mortgage period. Whereas, a lender can change a variable rate for their own commercial reasons; they may pass on a rate reduction or increase rates in anticipation of a base rate rise. It is important to remember that you have no protection from any changes to the economy or your lenders decisions in regard to a variable rate.

We are currently experiencing record low interest rates, but a recent survey by The Times predicted that the future costs of borrowing will increase, regardless of a Bank of England interest rate rise leading to a 0.5 percentage rise, equating to an additional £45 per month on a £175,000 repayment mortgage. https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/borrowing-costs-set-to-rise-in-2018-mqpb0q55f

So, what are your options? If you're coming to the end of a fixed rate mortgage you may find your monthly repayments decrease when you move onto a standard variable rate, but this may not last. Now might be the time to look at a fixed rate mortgage before an increase. Fixed rate mortgages may suit people who want a precise budget to work with but not those looking for an initially cheaper, more flexible option. Speak to a mortgage adviser, like myself, who will advise you on the best course of action and find the most suitable solution for you.

A mortgage is a loan secured against your home or property. Your home or property may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other debt secured on it.

You may have to pay an early repayment charge to your existing lender if you remortgage.

Michael Alberts CeMAP is the Principal Mortgage Adviser at NGI Residential Mortgages. www.ngiresidential.co.uk Tel: 01993 706403

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Have you thought about taking advantage of the record low interest rates currently available? Contact us today before they change.

A mortgage is a loan secured against your home. Your home maybe repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortage or any other debt secured against it.

To find out more please speak to Mike Alberts our Principal Mortgage Adviser.

Call 01993 706403
Visit www.ngiresidential.co.uk

NGI Residential Mortgages Ltd is registered in England and Wales under reference 09885994. Registered office address: 47 Larch Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 1AG.

BARNES HOLIDAYS

COMPLETE ISLE OF WIGHT: SHANKLIN
Sat 16th June 2018
8 Days: £579

No island comes close to this island, and almost half of it is designated an area of outstanding natural beauty! There is a variety of landscapes, including high chalk downland, woodland and lovely coastline! We will be staying at the charming and well appointed The Ocean View Hotel based in a premier location. On this tour we have included a magnificent coastal tour along the South of the island towards Alum Bay overlooking the Needles. We also make stops in Godshill, Ryde & Sandown with opportunity to visit Osborne House - Queen Victoria's Home.

EASTBOURNE, THE SUSSEX COAST & COUNTRYSIDE
Sat 30th June 2018
8 Days: £569

Eastbourne is one of England's premier seaside resorts. It has a magnificent Victorian seafront and there are beautiful parks and gardens to enjoy. We enjoy our stay in the impressive Victorian era hotel - the Imperial Hotel which is set on a tree-lined boulevard running off the seafront. On this tour we have included trips to the unspoilt town of Rye, the vibrant and colourful Brighton, the resort of Worthing & so much more!

SCOTTISH SENSATIONS & TROSSACHS TREASURES
Sun 1st July 2018
5 Days: £449

Includes Kelpies Experience, Falkirk Wheel, Stirling Castle and Royal Yacht Brittania! Absorb the contrasting scenery and natural beauty of Perthshire whilst staying at one of Scotland's most iconic and well-loved hotels. Follow in the footsteps of Scottish Kings at Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most famous Palaces, rise into the air on the unique Falkirk Wheel boat lift and marvel at the extraordinary, monumental Kelpies.

NORTH NORFOLK
Thu 19th July 2018
5 Days: £449

Including Felbrigg Hall, Norwich Cathedral & lunch at St Georges Distillery.

There is something a little special about the region of North Norfolk with its diverse landscape of unique unspoilt coastline and rolling countryside with panoramic skies. Sandy beaches, unique salt marshes, picturesque seaside towns and quaint villages all combine with a variety of historic venues to complete the picture. We will be staying at the Links Country Park Hotel which has great facilities including an indoor pool, gym and extensive grounds to play croquet and pentanque.

CALL THE MIDWIFE, TRAINS & CASTLE
Sun 29th July 2018
5 Days: £449
Includes Historic Dockyard with 'midwife' guide, Kent & East Sussex Railway & Hever

Kent has a rich sense of history and tradition, and is dotted with picturesque villages, imposing castles and stately homes. The Historic Dockyard has recently been used for filming "Call the Midwife" as well as "Mr Selfridge" and is also a treat for people who like all things water-borne with its 400 year history. We also enjoy a train ride and vists a castle with gardens all whilst based in a fantastic, 4 star hotel.

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Tuesday May 1st

BBC 1

3.00pm Escape to the Country

MORNING

9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am A1: Britain's Longest Road
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm 800 Words
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Flipping Profit
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm Holby City
9.00pm The Split
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm Life and Death Row
11.45pm Obesity: The Post Mortem
12.40am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.45am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

10.00pm Cunk on Britain

MORNING

7.10am The Super League Show
8.00am Sea Cities - Brighton
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
10.00am Snooker

AFTERNOON

12.00pm The Daily Politics
1.00pm Snooker

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Britain in Bloom
7.00pm Snooker
8.00pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
9.00pm Hospital
10.00pm Cunk on Britain
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.05am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.05am MasterChef
3.05am Secret Agent Selection: WW2

ITV

7.30pm Devon and Cornwall Cops

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

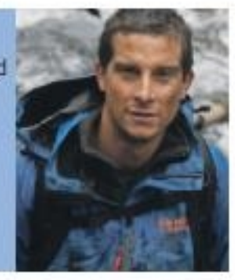
AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.20pm Party Election Broadcast
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Devon and Cornwall Cops
8.00pm This Time Next Year
9.00pm The Royal Wives of Windsor
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm Harold Shipman
11.45pm The Durrells
12.35am Jackpot247
3.00am Loose Women
3.45am ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4



10.00pm Surviving the Island with Bear Grylls

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
10.05am Ramsay's Hotel Hell
11.00am Undercover Boss USA

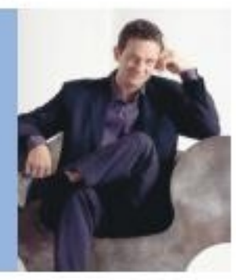
AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Coast v Country
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm Class of Mum and Dad
9.00pm My F-Ing Tourette's Family
10.00pm Surviving the Island with Bear Grylls
11.05pm Flight Hs13: Walter Presents
12.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
12.55am One Born Every Minute
1.50am The Supervet
2.45am The Channel

Channel 5



9.15am The Wright Stuff

MORNING

8.20am Floogals
8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm Running for Her Life
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm World Rally Championship 2018
8.00pm The Yorkshire Vet
9.00pm British Airways
10.00pm Missing: Flight Mh370 - Inside the Situation Room
11.05pm The Secret Life of the Long-Haul Flight
12.30am Fail Army
1.00am Super Casino

Your 2for1 TICKET to the Saturday & Sunday

Newbury SHOWGROUND Antiques & Collectors Fair

VALID EITHER - **Saturday 28 April** (from 9.30am onwards) or **Sunday 29 April** (from 10am to 4pm)

At the Newbury Showground (M4 Jct 13) Newbury, Berkshire RG18 9QZ

Price per person without this ticket is £5 (Accompanied under 16's admitted FREE)

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Name _____ Signature _____

Email _____

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TAYLORAPR18

Be a WINNER with our weekly competitions page

Great prizes and easy to enter

THIS WEEK: WIN A KID'S VIP PACKAGE AT HOLLYWOOD BOWL!

Wednesday May 2nd

BBC 1

TOP TV

8.00pm Watchdog Live

MORNING

9.15am Rip Off Britain
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am A1: Britain's Longest Road
11.45am The Housing Enforcers

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.30pm Regional News and Weather
1.45pm Doctors
2.15pm 800 Words
3.00pm Escape to the Country
3.45pm Flipping Profit
4.30pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
8.00pm Watchdog Live
9.00pm Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.30pm Regional News and Weather
10.45pm A Question of Sport
11.15pm Ambulance
12.15am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.20am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

10.00pm Detectorists

MORNING

7.15am Rip Off Britain
8.00am See Hear
8.30am Great British Railway Journeys
9.00am Victoria Derbyshire
10.00am Snooker
11.30am The Daily Politics

AFTERNOON

1.00pm Snooker

EVENING

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm Britain in Bloom
7.00pm Snooker
8.00pm Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge
9.00pm Love in the Countryside
10.00pm Detectorists
10.30pm Newsnight
11.15pm World Championship Snooker Highlights
12.05am World Championship Snooker - Extra
2.05am See Hear
2.35am MasterChef

ITV

7.30pm Coronation Street

MORNING

8.30am Lorraine
9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show
10.30am This Morning

AFTERNOON

12.30pm Loose Women
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.55pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

EVENING

6.00pm ITV News London
6.30pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Britain's Busiest Airport - Heathrow
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Benidorm
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.30pm ITV News London
10.45pm UEFA Champions League Highlights
11.45pm Play to the Whistle
12.20am Jackpot247

Channel 4

9.00pm One Born Every Minute

MORNING

7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am Everybody Loves Raymond
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AFTERNOON

12.00pm Channel 4 News
12.05pm Coast v Country
1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm Escape to the Chateau: DIY
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Buy it Now

EVENING

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
8.00pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
9.00pm One Born Every Minute
10.00pm First Dates
11.05pm My F-Ing Tourette's Family
12.05am Live From Abbey Road Classics
12.35am How'd You Get So Rich?
1.15am Playing for Keeps
3.00am Come Dine Champion of Champions
3.55am Gok's Fill Your House for Free

Channel 5

10.00pm Billionaire Babies: 24 Carat Kids

MORNING

8.20am Floogals
8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Paddington Station 24/7

AFTERNOON

12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.15pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm NCIS
3.15pm A Daughter's Nightmare
5.00pm 5 News at 5
5.30pm Neighbours

EVENING

6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm Police Interceptors
8.00pm GPs: Behind Closed Doors
9.00pm Rich House, Poor House
10.00pm Billionaire Babies: 24 Carat Kids
11.05pm Named and Shamed
12.05am Celeb Trolls: We're Coming to Get You
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am Never Teach Your Wife to Drive
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Wildlife SOS

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What to consider as a student landlord

With two leading universities and a student population nearing 40,000, Oxford and the surrounding areas have always been popular for investing in properties that can be let to students and despite the local council's mission to limit the growth in Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs), growing student numbers mean the student rental market is set to remain a secure investment stream.

However, whether you're an existing student landlord or considering becoming one, you should consider what it is that your tenants will be looking for in their rental property.

Long gone are the days when you simply needed to adhere the necessary regulations and provide a room for each tenant. Students nowadays are a lot more discerning.

Whilst it is true that they're most likely looking for a property in a great location that offers good size rooms and is in a good state of repair, with average rents sitting at anywhere between £500 and £650 per month, it's understandable why students should demand the best.

Simply put, the better the quality of property you intend to let, the better the standard of tenant you'll attract – even in the student market. We've seen the best landlords allow 2-3 weeks between tenancies to carry out minor refurbishments on their property, thus avoiding any decline in standards which could lead to void periods.

Of course, the better the standard of property you let out, the more likely it is that the student tenants will want to remain for the following academic year, which in turn reduces your costs searching for new tenants.

But it's not just the overall condition of the property that will help you to secure tenants. Students nowadays look for quality furnishings and quirky, stylish finishing details and the all-important

high speed broadband connection – although don't forget to hand billing responsibility for that over to the tenants!

With the necessary detail in mind, the prime areas in which to invest will probably come as no surprise. Near to the Cowley/Iffley triangle, in and around Jericho and opposite the Oxford Brookes' Gypsy Lane campus all remain popular and it's unlikely that this will change.

However, something that is shifting to an extent is the size of property which appeals to the student market. With an increasing amount of purpose-built accommodation springing up in the locations around Oxford Brookes University, we are finding that some of the much larger student properties (5 bed plus) are becoming more difficult to let as student friendship groups shrink in size.

An additional knock-on effect of more students opting for university accommodation is that those continuing to rent in the private sector will have a greater property choice and, as such, demand much higher standards.

Rest assured, student property is still a sound investment, but if you've got queries as to the most sought-after areas, the most popular types of property and the must-have features that will enable you to successfully let to students, then drop in to one of the five Andrews' branches across the county or visit www.andrewsonline.co.uk to speak with our expert teams who can guide you in the right direction!

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This tastefully renovated former Victorian School conversion, located in central Wallingford and just a short walk from its amenities, boasts rarely found charm. Period features mixed with a contemporary finish provide for modern living in a Grade II Listed building.

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Outside there is a garage, an allocated parking space and visitor parking as well as maintained communal gardens for relaxing and socialising.

For further details or to arrange a viewing contact selling agent Davis Tate Wallingford 01491 833323 or e-mail wallingford@davistate.com

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What New Lettings Legislation Makes A Good Letting Agent Worth Its Weight In Gold

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

GDPR, MEES, Right To Rent, HMO Licencing and HHSRS are just some of the new and not-so-new acronyms and responsibilities for Oxford's buy to let landlords to deal with. Add to that, the changes in mortgage interest rate relief, stamp duty surcharges and daily doomsday headlines about UK property, and it is no wonder some landlords are wondering whether it is all worth it.

Regular readers will have seen in my article last week the evidence of the attractive financial returns that are still being earned by landlords in Oxford. Annual returns on investment of c15% means that changes to interest rate relief, whilst annoying and inconvenient, can be easily afforded. Stamp duty, if anything, puts those with property already in a stronger competitive position vs. those who will invest in future. Whilst such barriers to entry may ultimately restrict Oxford renter's choice, and drive rents still higher, existing landlords will be the biggest beneficiaries.

So financially, so good. But what about the legislation? Agents, like landlords, are often tarred with the same brush as the thankfully few rogue agents. Just as not all landlords are slum-landlords, not all agents are rogue. The best agents are staying ahead of new and existing legislative changes. They actively communicate with landlords to forewarn of new rules, work with them to respond in time, and keep records in case needed at a future date.

Overall, the direction and intent behind the changes being made are to be applauded. Improving standards, improving controls and controlling data use. But collectively these new rules and regulations are becoming near impossible for self-managing landlords to cope with.

Lettings agents are increasingly seeking to aggregate their managed portfolios, introduce new working practices to improve efficiency and finding money to ensure they can cope and keep their clients compliant. It seems to me, that for some this has also coincided with a reduced commitment to local property management preferring instead to centralise functions that cover ever-increasing geographical territories from a single staff location. Increasingly the norm for property inspections has reduced to 3 inspections annually down from 4. But, is it desirable for active management of the landlord asset to be reduced to create budget for legislative compliance?

Few private landlords understand that the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will require them to register with the Information Commissioner's Office. Fewer still, know that such registration was already a requirement of the Data Protection Act.

Oxford City Council is aiming to drive standards for Oxfords Houses in multiple occupation (HMO) faster and higher than national legislation. Their ability to raise fines for non-compliance of up to £30,000 on HMO landlords and/or their agent under new fixed penalty notices makes it important that landlords and agents understand their compliance obligations. Meanwhile The Association of Lettings Agents (ARLA) the professional body for Letting Agents, states that the 'active management' requirement for HMO properties can not be 'met' via just 4 property inspection per month. It's recommendation is a minimum of 8 and more as required to follow-up compliance issues.

Increasingly Oxford's landlords will depend on their local agent, to keep abreast of legislation, to stay compliant. Failure by them or their agent could prove expensive. Claiming ignorance or an inability to keep-up with the rules will not prove to be an effective defence.

Older residents celebrate their independence as new homes open

Residents at Season's Millcroft independent living apartments in Wallingford celebrated the formal opening of their new home with family, friends and VIPs today [Friday 20 April]. Residents and visitors enjoyed Prosecco, the delightful music of local harpist, Jane Coulcher and a wonderful hog roast in the garden from the Oxfordshire Pig Roast Company. The party was also treated to surprise entertainment from Wallingford based ballet dancers, the Kinecroft Academy of Dance.

As Millcroft celebrated its formal opening, resident Nancy cut the ribbon and said: "It was all very good, the sun shone, the garden is looking lovely, the hog roast was super and I'm very pleased to be living her. I have enjoyed having a more spacious flat and I have made new friends. The staff, from the manager down, are all very helpful and friendly and very caring, Millcroft is a lovely place to live."

Sheila, the first resident to move into the shared ownership flat cut our ceremonial cake, she said: "It was a very pleasant day, a good social occasion, I am very happy here and settled much quicker than I thought and can't fault the accommodation or staff, it's a real home. I try to do things myself but it's nice to know there is help when I need it."

General Manager Daryl Reading said: "The atmosphere at Millcroft is brilliant, there is a real sense of community. We are delighted to open our doors to some of the people who helped create this great scheme, as well as local key organisations, friends and relatives so that they can join in the fun.

"The staff are really dedicated to our residents who benefit from top quality care at Millcroft. Our 40 one-and two-bedroom apartments are filling up now, and we really are an extended family.

"It's been an exciting few months since we opened; we're really looking forward to showing off our home to local people and enjoying more events in the future together."

Millcroft is the first scheme in Oxfordshire from multi-award-winning independent living provider, Season. Independent living apartments are specifically designed for older people who need some care. The residents live in their own homes that they can furnish as they wish and have design features, such as walk in showers, which make life easier. There is also help on hand at all times, if needed. It is increasingly popular and is seen as a positive way to meet the challenge of an expected 84% increase in people over 85 in the county by 2026.

Representatives from Season's parent company, One Housing, as well as Oxfordshire Council and David Wilson Homes were all on hand to mark the occasion.

For more information on Millcroft call 0300 123 7334 or visit www.seasonhomes.co.uk

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SKODA Karoq Edition 1.5 TSI 150PS – 6 Speed

Box ticking Skoda straight into top 10

By **Tony Yates**

EVERY week, I get a few dozen emails asking for suggestions on what is the best small to medium sized car to buy. Well, at first, I always say; 'pick what makes you happy', it's actually quite hard to give individual advice based on not having the full picture of their needs, and secondly, their budget. All I will say is that there are about ten vehicles right now, that I consider being pretty good, such as the VW UP! and the Fiat 500. Of course, there are others that spring to mind, such as the Kia Stonic. But, when it comes to small/medium SUVs, it's a little harder to judge. Well, to make it simple for you, this weeks review of the Skoda Karoq, just happens to be one of those that fall inside my list of 'Top 10' vehicles to buy.

Power & efficiency

The Karoq I currently have on test is powered by a 150PS, 1.5 TSi petrol engine with a 6-speed manual gearbox and a respectable top speed of around126mph. It also has a 0-62 time of 8.4 seconds, and with little fuss, I managed a combined figure of around 50mpg. Actually, having 150PS in a Karoq, makes it move along at a really good pace and as I have found out with most of the TSi range of engines, they loved to be revved hard, which means you get the best out of it at every opportunity.

On the road

I like the way the Karoq handles – it feels well balanced, and so it should, as its designed to be a proper family SUV, which I happen to like very much. Also, when the road gets twisty it's more than capable of holding its own. The steering also feels agile and direct, giving you the confidence to push harder into the corners. which also makes it feel fun to drive because it sticks firmly to the road ahead – something that Skoda always seems to get right when it comes to getting the best out of the chassis.

Equipment & tech

Some would say that most Skoda interiors seem a little bland, but there is a reason for this, its called being 'functional'. Let's face it, how many times have you sat inside a BMW and been overpowered with the array of buttons that frankly, you would need a BSc in Astrophysics to work them all out. Skoda does none of this in any of their vehicles, which is something I like because I am the sort of person who likes things to be 'unfussy'.

Although, I am quite fussy when it comes to seating, but the seating in the Karoq felt well constructed and the support was there in all the right places and even after a long journey I still felt very relaxed. As for all the dials and switches – they are laid out very well and as mentioned earlier, nothing looks awkwardly out of place and best of all, no university BSc required.

Some of the standard equipment on the Karoq Edition includes; 19" Crater alloy wheels, electronic traction control, front assist, drivers airbag, passengers airbag with de-activation switch, Isofix preparation, dual-zone climate control, cruise control with speed limiter, automatic headlight control, driver fatigue sensor, full LED headlights with adaptive front lighting system and LED daytime running lights, blind spot detection with rear traffic alert, Columbus satellite navigation system with 9.2" touchscreen display with maps and integrated Wi-Fi with gesture control.

Plus it doesn't stop there either - you also get; a DAB radio & Bluetooth connectivity, and ESC which includes; ABS+MSR+ASR+EDS+HBA+DSR+RBS+MKB – if you want to know what all those mean, then I suggest you take a trip to your local Skoda dealer and ask a well-informed salesperson.

To sum up

I'm going to give the Karoq four stars in this test, not only because I like it a lot, but because I believe it's a decent sized SUV that will tick all the boxes for someone looking for that type of vehicle. From £27,115 OTR – excluding extras

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13 63 HONDA CR-V 2.0 I-VTEC SR PETROL 5DR, met blue with half leather, alloys, alarm, bluetooth, climate & cruise control, e/windows, e/folding mirrors, Reverse camera, parking sensors, Xenon Lights, FSH, 23K **£14,795**

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12 12 SEAT LEON 1.6 CR TDI ECOMOTIVE SE COPA 5DR white with heated leather seats, alloys, auto lights, bluetooth, climate & cruise control, DAB radio, E/mirrors & windows, rear parking sensors, Sat Nav, FSH, ZERO ROAD TAX, 72K **£6,495**

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Models shown: MG GS Exclusive with metallic paint in Spiced Orange at £20,090 on the road (OTR) or from £219 a month based on a 60 month Conditional Sale agreement with a MG Deposit Contribution of £2,000 and a customer deposit of £4,950. MG3 3Style+ with Combination Paint option in Ruby Red with White Roof at £12,190.00 on the road (OTR) or from £159 a month based on a 60 month conditional sale agreement with a customer deposit of £2,650. Monthly 'from price' based on MG3 3Form at £10,195 on the road (OTR) or from £135 a month based on a 60 month Conditional Sale agreement with a £2,095 customer deposit.

†OTR prices of £8,695 applies to the MG3 3Time (not available on the 0% APR Conditional Sale offer), with no optional extras and £15,095 applies to the MG GS Explore with no optional extras. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months "Vehicle Excise Duty'. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply.

*0% APR: Conditional sale. 0% APR available on all MG3 models (excluding MG3 3Time) and all MG GS models until 31.03.2018. A minimum deposit of 20% of the cash OTR price applies on all models. Finance by MG Financial Services, CF15 7YT, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. Please see your local dealer for details.

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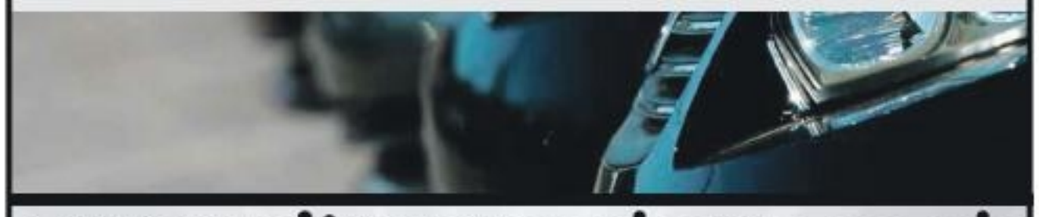

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NEFF cooker hood two piece carbon filter boxed and unused £10 tel: 01285 255173

DIMMER switch 3 gang brushed stainless steel unused £10 tel: 01285 255173

BUGGY zeta zoom stroller pale blue hood and rain cover good clean condition £20 tel: 01235 763602

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WHITE stair gate £10 tel: 01993 705932

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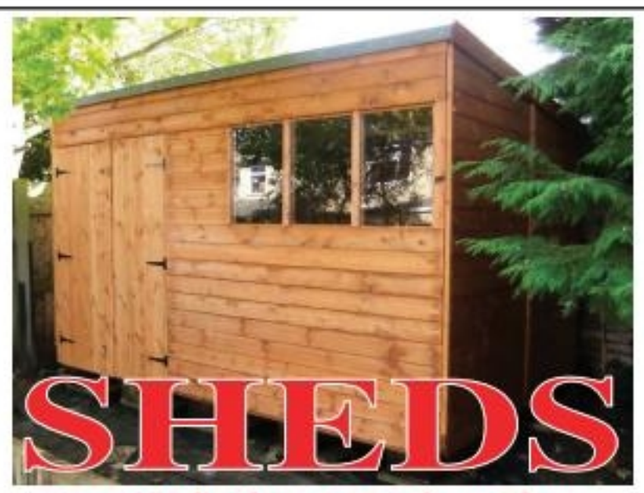

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Working to stay ahead of rivals

By George Welch

F1 - Renault

SWAGGERING with new upgrades ahead of Sunday's Azerbaijan GP in Baku, Renault are hoping to continue their 'upward trajectory'.

The Enstone outfit are hopeful the introduction of new chassis upgrades will help them emerge at the top of Formula 1's tight midfield.

The consistency of Nico Hulkenberg has helped the French manufacturer to a solid start, scoring points at each of the opening three races in Australia, Bahrain and China to occupy fifth place in the constructors' standings.

Despite the encouraging start, Renault has admitted they hoped to be closer to the Big Three and are adrift of customer teams Red Bull (30 points) and McLaren (three).

But Renault are hoping a series of chassis upgrades, including front and rear wing and bargeboards updates in Baku, will help them catch up. They will also introduce an engine upgrade at next month's Spanish Grand Prix

"Baku will mark the start of the next phase of our season push," managing director Cyril Abiteboul said.

The next phase: Nico Hulkenberg, who has led the way for Renault in the opening three races, is hoping upgrades give his side an advantage in a tight midfield **Picture**: *Renault Sport Formula One Team*

"We are confident that the combination of these developments can allow us to maintain our performance. We need to remain focussed on making every single element work."

Hulkenberg, who sits seventh in the drivers' standings having scored 22 of his team's 25 points so far, added: "It's important to keep picking up a good number of points to make sure we are in the hunt.

"It's about continuing on this upward trajectory and putting the work in to make sure we are ahead of our rivals."

Meanwhile, the team principal of Banbury-based Haas has backed one of his flailing drivers.

Romain Grosjean has had the pace this season, but has so far been unable to match it with results.

Team-mate Kevin Magnussen is responsible for all 11 of Haas's points – but Gunther Steiner dismissed Grosjean's lack of points as a problem.

He said: "While Romain hasn't had the results he would've liked and we all wished we had, for one reason or another, there was never a lack of performance.

"Romain will get the results he and we want. I have no doubt about that."

Frustrated to leave Texas without point

Moto GP

OXFORD rider Bradley Smith just missed out on the points in Sunday's third round of 19 races in the 2018 MotoGP.

The Red Bull KTM Factory Racing rider finished 16th at the quick and flowing Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, while team-mate Pol Espargaro secured 13th position.

The pair lined up next to each other on the fifth row of the grid for the 20 lap dash.

Following a tussle for a mid-pack slot, Smith took a gamble opting for a medium front tyre forcing him to slow his pace.

Smith said: "It was a good weekend and I felt like I had some pace especially in the beginning where I made up three positions and was fighting with Jorge Lorenzo.

"We took a gamble: Pol went with the soft front tyre and I went with the medium and with these temperatures I thought it would work but it just went off and there was nothing I could do.

"This is all part of the learning experience and figuring out what works with this motorcycle and how to improve.

"It is a bit frustrating to come away without any points."

MotoGP is heading back to Europe in Andalucia in two weeks' time.

Massa's wish for old team

F1 - Williams

FELIPE Massa believes former team Williams is paying the price for 'putting money first' this season.

The Grove-based side have lagged behind the rest in the early stages of the season and are the only team yet to score a point.

Massa retired from the sport at the end of last season and was replaced by rookie Russian Sergey Sirotkin to partner Lance Stroll.

It is believed the pair came with a budget of well over £10m each.

Speaking to Motorsport.com, Massa said: "It's true that the team was suffering from the financial situation and I think they made decisions for 2018 putting money first.

"But this is not enough to make a competitive championship. I hope Williams can recover."

Deputy team principal Claire Williams has insisted their driver selection was race-based and not to do with money.

Williams will take confidence ahead of the weekend from Stroll's podium finish in Baku last year.

The Canadian said: "I have some great memories of Baku. It was my first podium in Formula 1, so I shall never forget that, and the whole experience was amazing."

Technical director Paddy Lowe said Stroll's third-place made for a "very eventful race and memorable one for Williams".

He added: "It would be bold to expect another podium but he should perform well given his significant achievements in Baku last year."

Old chums: Felipe Massa and Lance Stroll during happier times **Picture**: *Williams Martini Racing*

Seven over par leaves Eddie off the cut line

Golf

ABINGDON golfer Eddie Pepperell missed the cut for the second European Tour championship in a row following an error-laden run.

A triple-bogey eight at the eighth in the second round of the Trophee Hassan II doomed Pepperell to his fate in Rabat, Morocco.

After carding a two-over-par 74 in the first round he headed into the second round inside the cut line.

The 27-year-old Oxfordshire golfer was later made to rue the dropped shots on the course tree-lined with tricky rough.

A birdie on the 11th was not enough to retain his place into the weekend after a bogey at the 12th was followed by a double-bogey two holes later.

The result leaves the pro 36th in the European Tour rankings.

Pepperell was fancied to fare well heading into the tournament after shooting a 65 in his second round at the Open de Espana in Spain earlier in the month.

But the Qatar Masters champion finished in Morocco with a 77 for two-round total of 151.

The result meant he missed the cut by four shots.

Pepperell is next in action at the GolfSixes at Centurion Club in St Albans on May 5 where he will partner Matt Wallace.

Promising signs from Saints as newcomer impresses

American Football

OXFORD Saints followed up last week's turnover to Solent Thrashers with a 21-21 tie at Berkshire Renegades.

Saints showed signs of improvement in Sunday's clash away to the Reading-based side.

Home advantage and the Berkshire club's surprising week one win over last season's undefeated Sussex Thunder made them favourites for the clash with Oxford, but found a Saints side ready for the Renegades.

Following a 41-yard gain from quarterback Dan Storey and a touchdown by Andrew Nielson, James Treherne kicked the extra point through the uprights to open Reading's account at 7-0.

Scores were level when strong attacking play saw Shaun Griffin cross into the endzone with Sam Fielden adding the extra point to tie the scores 7-7 at half time.

Saints newcomer Josh Peck showed his talents at the beginning of the third quarter weaving through defenders for a 90-yard touchdown with Fielden converting a kick to move 14-7 ahead.

A controversial fumble in the endzone saw officials award Ben Raper with a touchdown before Treherne added another extra point to tie the score again at 14-14.

Shaun Griffin and an on-target Fielden put Oxford 21-14 ahead before a 54-yard touchdown run from Johnny Whitehead and Treherne's third tied scores again at the final whistle.

Talent newcomer: Josh Peck scores on 90 yard kick return **Picture**: *Gareth Brown*

Sport

Stars miss out trophy treble in narrow loss

By Owen Hughes

Ice Hockey

LEAGUE champions Oxford City Stars were unable to complete a trophy treble after crashing out of the play-offs at the semi-final stage.

Oxford thrashed Bristol Pitbulls in the play-off quarter finals a fortnight ago with a 14-4 aggregate win sending Stars into the semi final clash with Chelmsford Chieftains brimming with confidence.

Fans from both sides packed the John Nike Leisuresport arena in Bracknell alongside fans of Solent Devils and Guildford Phoenix ahead of their semi-final match up.

But having already won the South 2 league title and the National Championship, play-off glory eluded the Stars as Chelmsford triumphed 5-3 on Saturday.

Spectators were treated to an incredible game of ice hockey that served up all the drama and excitement fans could ask for.

A quick and direct Chieftains dominated the first period.

Their attacking approach paid off as they took the lead after just six minutes through Grant Bartlett.

Chelmsford doubled their lead just before the first break through Anthony Leone, leaving much work to do for the Stars.

Nearly men: Joe Edwards slides the puck across the ice. **Picture:** *Kevin Slyfield*

Stars came out in the second period with renewed purpose and an intensity that their opponents weren't expecting, grabbing the first goal after five minutes.

Josh Florey scored to reduce the deficit sending the Stars fans into raptures. Three minutes later the roof came off as Florey scored his second of the game to wipe out the Chieftains' lead.

There were no further goals in the period, but plenty of penalties as both sides tried to secure a physical edge over their opponents.

The arena was rocking heading into the final period as both sides pressed for a winner.

Grant Bartlett edged the Essex side ahead on 42 minutes, but the Stars fought back when Josh Oliver scored three minutes later to level things once again.

Michal Oravec regained the lead for Chelmsford at 4-3.

The Stars fought for their lives to get back in the game, but it was Chelmsford who scored again as the impressive Bartlett completed his hat-trick to break Oxford hearts.

Solent Devils beat the Chieftains 6-1 in the final to secure promotion.

Draw ends season at home

Banbury United

A last-gasp equaliser denied Banbury United victory in their last home game of the season.

The Puritans ended their home fixtures with an entertaining 3-3 draw against Merthyr Town on Saturday.

Substitute Leam Howards scored twice and played a part in Elliot Sandy's goal as the Puritans led 3-2 in the six-goal thriller.

But Owain Jones slotted home in the dying seconds to deny Mike Ford's side victory.

The visitors took the lead through a first half Ian Traylor penalty.

Banbury equalised five minutes after the restart when Howards coolly back-heeled home.

The striker quickly made it 2-1 when he fired in a rebound.

Merthyr equalised on 74 minutes through Jones but United hit back immediately thanks to Sandy.

But they were denied victory in the 90th minute when the ball was fired across the area and Jones slotted home for his second of the afternoon.

The Puritans have only won one of their six matches during a hectic April schedule.

The games keep coming thick and fast though as they travelled to Frome Town (13th) yesterday (Wednesday), after we went to press.

Ninth-placed Banbury, aiming for a top-10 finish, play away at Tiverton Town (7th) in their last game of the season on Saturday.

Freds denied promotion

Hellenic

IN-FORM Wantage Town are set for another season in the Hellenic Premier after results went against them this week.

The Freds, looking to bounce back following last year's relegation, have won 11 of their last 12 league games.

But Bracknell Town, unbeaten at home, have won their last five games to tie up second spot, the last automatic berth.

They won 2-0 at Woodley United on Tuesday to condemn Wantage to another season in the ninth-tier.

Wantage were due to play away at Windsor last night (Wednesday) before finishing the season with a trip to Burnham on Saturday.

Abingdon United were also out of action – they finish the campaign at home to Highmoor Ibis – but Oxford City Nomads continued their losing finish to the season.

They lost 1-0 at Burnham on Saturday and 2-1 at home to Lydney Town on Tuesday to bring their campaign to a close.

Bradley Singh got Oxford's consolation against Lydney on the hour after Declan Morley-Lyne gave the visitors a two-goal lead before the break.

Mid-table City finished with a winless run of five games, including four defeats.

They are 11th having played all their games, but several teams have games in hand.

Top tips: England's most capped female rugby player Rochelle Clark looks on as Joe Taylor rounds the Chesham defence to open the scoring

Favours all round to help

Rugby

WHEATLEY gave their Oxfordshire rivals from Littlemore a helping hand on Saturday by beating Chesham 25-22.

However, the purple men were forced to come from behind after trailing 18-19 at half time.

A kick from Bouchier extended the lead to 18-22 before Wheatley pounced on a tired Chesham to eventually see out the match 25-22.

Despite a resolute performance from Wheatley, the lack of bonus point at the final whistle means Chesham are guaranteed third in the Berks Bucks & Oxon Premier, one place above Wheatley on 47 points, with one game to go.

The result also did rivals Littlemore a favour who secured second place with a 71-7 win over Bletchley.

Elsewhere, Didcot's trip to Milton Keynes was one to forget as the fell 23-15 in Buckinghamshire.

At the other end of the rugby pyramid, second placed Chinnor lost their National League 2 South clash at Canterbury 52-29 while midtable Henley Haws were beaten 36-19 by London Irish Wild Geese.

In the South West 1 East, Grove fell 39-15 at Swindon as bottom club Bicester lost 57-20 away to Wimborne.

Banbury punished Witney 36-19 but had to settle for second after Old Patesians were crowned champions after beating Oxford Harlequins 34-7.

Goal: Felipe Barcelos scores to put Didcot level. **Picture:** *Roger Neal*

Last day drama looms for Diddy

Evo-Stik round up

DIDCOT Town's race for the play-offs will go the last game of the season on Saturday after they got back to winning ways.

The Railwaymen lost 2-1 at Salisbury on Saturday, meaning they needed to win their final three matches to have a chance of making the top six.

The first hurdle was jumped on Tuesday when Diddy beat Larkhall Atheltic 4-2 at the Loop Meadow.

Goals came from Marlon Agyakwa, Lewis Hayden and Felipe Barcelos (twice).

Didcot are eighth, three points off the play-offs with two games to go, including tonight's (Thursday) at North Leigh.

Elsewhere in Evo-Stik South West, Kidlington suffered a 3-2 defeat at Cirencester United on Saturday.

Declan Benjamin and Duran Martin gave the Greens the lead in the first and second half but were overpowered by the promotion hunters.

North Leigh fell to a 2-0 defeat at Winchester City the same day before the Millers bounced back with a 5-1 win at Barnstaple Town on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, in the East division, mid-table Thame United scored three goals in six second-half minutes to earn a 3-1 win at Northwood.

Jermain Osei gave the home side a 21st minute lead and United had to wait until the final 20 minutes to turn the game around.

Lynton Goss fired home on 72 minutes before Tom Ashworth and James McGowan goals completed the comeback on 78 minutes.

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 21 April
Oxford City 4-0 Bognor Regis Town
Tuesday 24 April
Braintree Town 0-0 **Oxford City**

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 21 April
Banbury United 3-3 Merthyr Town
Wednesday 25 April
Frome Town v **Banbury United**

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 21 April
Northwood 1-3 **Thame United**
Thursday 26 April
Thame United v Arlesey Town

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 21 April
Cirencester Town 3-2 **Kidlington**
Salisbury 2-1 **Didcot Town**
Winchester City 2-0 **North Leigh**
Tuesday 24 April
Barnstaple Town 1-5 **North Leigh**
Didcot Town 4-2 Larkhall Athletic
Thursday 26 April
Kidlington v Shortwood United
North Leigh v **Didcot Town**

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 21 April
Burnham 1- 0 **Oxford City Nomads**
Monday 23 April
Oxford City Nomads 1-2 Lydney Town
Wednesday 25 April
Windsor v **Wantage Town**

Hoops net four in impressive display to end season at home

By Owen Hughes

Oxford City

OXFORD City signed off their final home game of the season with their biggest win of the entire campaign.

A sublime Hoops display saw them cast aside relegated Bognor Regis Town easing to a 4-0 win in front of the Marsh Lane faithful.

The result mathematically confirms safety for City, securing their place in the National League South for another season.

Manager Mark Jones was given a boost ahead of the fixture by the return of Eddie Jones and Frankie Musonda to his starting line up following suspension and injury respectively.

The City boss opted to revert to the 3-5-2 formation that has worked well for the side in recent months as Jones went straight in at right wing back and Musonda slotted into the back three.

But it was Matt Paterson who proved to be the difference for Oxford throughout the first half.

He crashed a shot off the outside of the post on 14 minutes before going close five minutes later, forcing visiting shot stopper Dan Lincoln into a fine save from a powerful left footed drive.

An unusual set of circumstances saw Paterson eventually open the scoring from the penalty spot on 39 minutes.

Referee Alex Blake waved play on when Freddie Grant was fouled in the box, before pointing to the spot seconds later when Rob Sinclair buried his effort that was flagged for offside.

Less than five minutes later, top scorer Paterson snatched his 20th league goal of the campaign smashing Musonda's rebound into the roof of the net.

A spectacular curling effort from Musonda on 76 minutes put the game beyond doubt before Sinclair's tidy finish with one minute remaining put the tie to bed.

City played out a goalless draw after making the long trip to Braintree Town's Cressing Road on Tuesday.

The Hoops visit Wealdstone (11th) tonight and bring the season to a close with another away game at Poole Town (20th), who are a point from safety with a game to go.

Heartbreak as penalty misery in 89th minute denies a point

OUFCW

OXFORD United Women's season continues to finish with a whimper after two more defeats extended their winless run to eight league games.

The U's lost 2-1 at home to Tottenham Hotspur last Thursday before a 1-0 defeat at Aston Villa on Sunday saw them slip to third-bottom in WSL2.

There was late penalty drama against Spurs as the Londoners snatched all three points right at the death.

United were unlucky to lose but fell behind to a Katie O'Leary goal on the half hour mark.

Makeshift forward Hannah Short equalised with 20 minutes remaining.

The match looked to be petering out into a draw until Tottenham were awarded an 89th minute penalty. Coral-Jade Haines made no mistake from the spot for the winner.

Oxford lost again three days later when an Ebony Salmon strike 15 minutes from time secured Villa the victory at the Lamb Ground.

The Midlanders had lost six of their previous seven games but claimed the three points via Salmon's 13th of the season.

United, who last tasted victory against Villa at the end of January, have three games remaining, starting with a trip to Sheffield Ladies on Sunday.

They are eighth on 10 points from 15 games.

Eastwood: Quietly confident of staying up

SENSATIONAL shot-stopper Simon Eastwood was in superb shape to secure back-to-back clean sheets for the first time since December.

Oxford United's number one has saved many points during his two-year stint between the sticks at the U's.

He was overworked again in the 1-0 win at Doncaster Rovers on Saturday – but United have now conceded just two goals in four games.

Eastwood made two vital saves in the second half as Oxford picked up their first three points on the road since February.

"They were good saves," the 28-year-old said. "When it's 0-0 or 1-0 it's vital to make those saves.

"I think the (better) one was in the second half where it came across the box and he (Matty Blair) had the whole goal to shoot at and I just tried to make myself as big as possible.

"Luckily I dived the right way and made the save."

He added: "It was a very, very interesting game. We were trying so hard to win and in the second half the fans pushed us forward and luckily James Henry got the winner."

Eastwood thinks United are safe on 53 points but said it remains a matter of opinion.

"We are quietly confident," he added.

Contract issues leave Ricky's future in doubt

BRAZILIAN left back Ricardinho was left out of the Oxford United starting XI at Doncaster Rovers due to a contract clause, boss Karl Robinson confirmed.

The veteran was left on the bench as he only needs one more start to trigger a contract extension for next season.

With the U's virtually safe, Robinson now has summer recruitment and next season on his radar.

When quizzed on Ricardinho's absence, he said: "We've got some contractual situations going on, including raises if players hit a certain number.

"That might have a detrimental impact on what we are trying to do [at the club]. I've taken a chance on something for next year. I've got to do these things.

"Don't think that Ricky's not going to be here, but we have to get things right on our terms before we move forward."

Robinson, who recently described the bubbly full back as a 'diamond', added: "Is there better for that salary? He's 33, is there someone at 24 or 25?

"You've got to think about the whole picture."

Ricardinho, whose work rate has warmed him to the United fans, has scored three goals in 37 games.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Wigan Athletic	44	59	94
2	Blackburn Rovers	44	42	93
3	Shrewsbury Town	44	22	86
4	Rotherham United	44	20	76
5	Charlton Athletic	44	7	68
6	Scunthorpe United	43	11	67
7	Plymouth Argyle	43	3	65
8	Portsmouth	44	0	63
9	Peterborough United	44	8	61
10	Bradford City	43	-8	61
11	Blackpool	44	6	59
12	Southend United	44	-6	59
13	Bristol Rovers	44	-6	57
14	Doncaster Rovers	43	1	54
15	Fleetwood Town	44	-9	54
16	Oxford United	44	-5	53
17	Gillingham	44	-8	52
18	AFC Wimbledon	43	-11	50
19	Rochdale	44	-8	48
20	Walsall	43	-12	48
21	Oldham Athletic	44	-17	48
22	Northampton Town	44	-33	46
23	MK Dons	44	-25	42
24R	Bury	44	-31	32

YALE WHITE HORSE
Sport

More sport inside: F1: Renault hoping to build on good start | Ice Hockey: Stars miss out on trophy treble | City: Home campaign ends on biggest win

Henry uses his head to move U's nearer safety

By George Welch

Doncaster Rovers 0 Oxford United 1

James Henry 63

Attendance: 8,255 (1,018 away)

SUPER sub James Henry has helped edge Oxford United nearer to enjoying League One football again next year after sinking Doncaster Rovers.

The midfielder hit double figures with his match-winning second half header on Saturday.

The 1-0 win at the Keepmoat does not eliminate the U's from the relegation battle – but James' diving header has gone a long way to securing survival.

"It's an important goal and three points," he said.

"We were coming to win and it was always going to be a massive game. Hopefully we've done enough now."

United's 53-point haul has been good enough for third-tier survival in every season since 1988/89.

Henry's goals in the second half of the season have been absolutely critical for the U's.

Since the turn of the year he has found the back of the net against Bury, Charlton, Rotherham, Peterborough, Scunthorpe, Southend and Doncaster.

Of his latest goal, he said: "It was a perfect cross [from Ryan Ledson] and a good finish. It's about timing, closing your eyes and hoping for the best."

The 28-year-old was perhaps surprisingly left on the bench having played no part against Wigan Athletic during the week before.

The former Wolves man added: "It would have been nice to start but it's the manager's discretion to pick the team.

"All I could do was come on and play my part. I managed to do that and get the goal.

"It was a nice way to pick up the points but we had Simon Eastwood to thank in goal.

"That's 10 goals now but I don't want to stop there, there's two games left and hopefully I can beat Wes Thomas as the top goal scorer."

Boss Karl Robinson said his Oxford players rode their luck but that it was the first time they 'stood up and were men' – even if the former MK and Charlton man had to catch his breath afterwards.

He said: "For the first time in more than 400 games and nearly 10 years my heart skipped a beat.

"I had to sit down for 30 seconds afterwards as the game was so enthralling."

Oxford (16th) have two games left of the 2017/18 season and play their final game at the Kassam Stadium against strugglers Rochdale (19th) on Saturday.

The U's finish the campaign at title-chasers Blackburn Rovers (2nd) on May 5.

Important goal: James Henry celebrates after coming on as sub to nick the goal and three points for United
Picture: *Darrell Fisher*

We have to be brave to be successful

KARL Robinson believes Oxford United will be challenging for the League One play-offs if he is backed sufficiently.

The win at Doncaster Rovers and Tuesday's results mean a solitary point is needed to secure United's third-tier status.

Robinson has wasted no time and is putting plans in place for next season – and he has sent a clear message to chairman Sumrith Thanakarnjanasuth.

He said: "If we get backed in the summer, we'll be successful. If we're brave in the summer, we'll be successful.

"We have to change our mentality. We don't have a small club mentality but we do small things in a big football league.

"Settling for where we are can't be something we just take on the chin.

"We'll settle for survival this year but next year we have to push into the top-10 and the play-offs – that's the bare minimum."

He added: "I'm so proud of my players [for avoiding relegation] and I am so looking forward to getting this club towards the play-offs.

"The win against Doncaster gives us a chance to look forward as a group and I'm ecstatic for everyone involved. What a great week."

Robinson confirmed he is meeting three potential recruits this week and has told some players they are surplus to requirements.

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